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22 Mar Middle East and South Asia Review

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NOTICE: FBIS wishes to advise that resource constraints will compel discontinuation of the Middle East and South Asia Review effective 1 April.

[Editorial Report]

Israel

The report that military intelligence has advised there is no alternative to negotiations with the PLO is a "lie," Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir asserted in remarks broadcast by Jerusalem radio. However, senior cabinet ministers cited by IDF radio expressed "amazement" at Shamir's denial about such a report, and insisted that the intelligence assessment does include a recommendation for launching talks with the PLO.

In other developments, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin stated that Israel will put forward proposals to settle the Palestinian issue after Shamir's visit to Washington, Jerusalem radio noted. According to YEDI'OT AHARONOT, a group of Arab notables from the territories are willing to meet with Shamir to discuss an interim arrangement in the territories based on a wide degree of autonomy. The group also wants Israel to allow free political activity in the territories and is seeking approval to establish "The Democratic Palestinian Party."

As for the security situation, Jerusalem radio reported that an Israeli officer and eight Palestinians were wounded during clashes in the Gaza Strip. The radio also stated that the police and the Shin Bet have arrested some 40 suspected "terrorists" affiliated with the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine in the Jerusalem area. The detainees are held responsible for firebomb attacks on Israeli vehicles, and on the British and U.S. consulates.

PLO-U.S. Dialogue

A responsible PLO source cited by Iraq's Voice of the Masses radio noted that the PLO delegation to the PLO-U.S. talks in Tunis will be led by PLO Executive Committee member Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh. The talks will be held over six sessions in 3 days.

In an interview with Abu Dhabi's AL-ITTIHAD, a PLO official rejected U.S. ideas for an end to the intifadah (uprising) as "attempts at blackmailing the PLO." Bassam Abu Sharif, adviser to PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat, stated in Tunis that the PLO may agree to the presence of U.S. forces in "occupied Palestinian territories" during a transitional period, according to Radio Monte Carlo.

The Israeli daily HA'ARETZ reported that PLO leaders have "agreed in principle" to a U.S. proposal that Palestinians from the territories should negotiate an interim settlement with Israel. However, this is conditional on the United States lifting its opposition to the PLO's demand that a final settlement should consist of the establishment of a Palestinian state.

Lebanon

The clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio reported that five people were killed and six wounded in West Beirut and the southern suburb during further artillery exchanges across the combat lines 21 March. "Violent clashes" involving tanks continued in Beirut the following day, Voice of Lebanon radio reported. According to the Iraqi agency INA, Syria has sent 100 tanks to its supporters in West Beirut to "escalate" the situation.

In Paris, French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas told his Syrian counterpart Faruq al-Shar' of France's "concern" over the "deterioration" of the situation in Lebanon, AFP noted.

Meanwhile, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC) confirmed that 9 of its members were killed in the 20 March Israeli air raid on PFLP-GC targets, along with "many unarmed civilians." The PFLP-GC statement, broadcast by the clandestine Al-Quds radio, noted that a member of the PFLP-GC Central Committee members were among the "martyrs."

Saudi Arabia

A responsible Saudi source rebutted "false claims" in a London weekly that Britain offered to pay "commission" to Saudi Arabia in order to win "the biggest military deal in history," SPA reported. The British Defense Ministry denied having paid commission and inferred that the deal was made between governments in order to avoid middlemen, the agency added citing London's FINANCIAL TIMES.

Sudan

The Sudanese Journalists Association condemned the arrest of the chief editor of AL-RAYAH newspaper under the emergency laws as a "violation of press freedom and democracy," SUNA reported.

Iran

ICAO Resolution Criticized—A message from Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati to the International Civil Aviation Organization "regretted" the body's recent resolution on the downing of an Iranair airliner by the U.S. Navy last July, IRNA reported. Velayati claimed that the resolution was "contrary" to the body's regulations and against international expectations.

Turkey's Ban on Headdress—The Foreign Ministry summoned the Turkish ambassador 21 March to express Iran's "concern" over Ankara's ban on Islamic headdress for women in Turkish universities, IRNA reported.

Afghanistan

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs delivered its "strongest protest" to the Pakistani charge d'affaires in Kabul over the intrusion into Nangarhar Province of 250 militiamen and 150 regular Pakistani troops, Kabul radio reported 20 March. The protest alleged that among the intruders were nine U.S., Arab, and Pakistani "advisers."

The mujahidin have set up a "coordinated command" to launch a four-pronged attack on Jalalabad, according to AFP citing resistance sources and diplomats in Peshawar. The sources also "strongly denied" a Moscow radio report that the Jalalabad-Kabul highway has been reopened and affirmed that the only land route between the two cities remains cut.

A protocol on the safe passage of convoys carrying food and other basic goods along the Kabul-Parvan highway was signed 19 March by government officials and elders of villages along the highway, BAKHTAR reported.

Islamic Affairs

Syria's Al-Shar' Addresses Riyadh ICO Session

JN1603101589 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 15 Mar 89

[Text] Riyadh—In his speech to the 18th Islamic foreign ministers conference this afternoon, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' said that Israel had been established by force and has used force to achieve its expansionist goals. Israel has also pursued state terrorism on the largest scale, committed killings and destructive actions wherever it could, and is now fighting the stones in the hands of Palestinian children with bullets, lethal gas, the demolition of houses, and the confiscation of land.

Al-Shar' asserted that Israel is not searching for peace but is creating an illusion of peace. It is trying to move those who believe this illusion out of the arena of conflict one after another creating a paralysis of our masses' willpower, alleging that peace has already been achieved. In return for such an Israeli peace, Israel's power will grow, its influence in the region will increase, and more states will approach it. The minister said: We demand peace based on the relevent UN resolutions as part of an international conference under UN auspuices to be attended by all concerned parties, including the PLO. Meanwhile, Israel maintains its intransigence and insists that what it has taken by force is considered an acquired right. It does not heed the principle of the nonadmissibility of acquiring others' territory by force. Israel also believes that the right to self-determination does not concern the Palestinian Arab people but the world's Jews, he added.

Al-Shar' emphasized that Israel's false claims about peace are only a planned maneuver addressed to world public opinion on the one hand and aimed at reassuring the Israelis on the other that the plan to establish greater Israel is still the core of Zionist ideology. He pointed out the importance of political moves in order to gain the support of world public opinion. However, he asserted that our political move should not be at the expense of our principles and that our thrust to gain world public opinion should not be at the expense of our rights. He wondered: What is the use of gaining world public opinion and losing our principles and rights? The policy of concessions has never been in the interests of the peoples whose rights are usurped. On the contrary, this policy has been ominous for those who followed and practiced it.

He asserted that Syria will continue to support the Palestinian people in their valiant intifadah [uprising] as well as our steadfast sons in the Golan and the militant resistance in southern Lebanon. The minister said: It is a lengthy, costly, and difficult road. However, this road is more costly and difficult for the Israelis, and there is no alternative to it in the absence of a just peace.

Regarding Lebanon, Al-Shar' said: Once again, the situation in Lebanon is exploding due to the absence of genuine political reforms. These reforms are the natural way for Lebanon to move out of the whirlpool of violence and fragmentation. As long as a small minority of the Lebanese people refuses to treat other citizens equally, considers itself part of a higher civilization and culture, and goes a long way and cooperates with Israel to affirm its foreign approaches, Lebanon will not have domestic peace. He added: By adopting such stands, this small minority expresses its grudge against Arabs and Arabism and at the same time tries to evade the demands of the overwhelminig majority of the Lebanese people on the pretext that the demands are Syrian.

The foreign minister asserted that Syria is not searching for narrow gains in Lebanon but for gains that are in the interests of Lebanon and the Arab nation. He said: From this premise, Syria has welcomed the Arab ministerial committee emanating from the Arab League Council and stressed its interest in renderning successful the committee's work. Syria has also stressed its commitment to supporting this committee in its good offices to achieve national accord in Lebanon, he added. AL-Shar' said: It is clear that the recent escalation of the situation in East Beirut—following a series of provocative measures such as imposing a siege on Lebanon's national ports, closing the airport, shelling civilians in West Beirut, and killing dozens and wounding hundreds—is only an attempt to foil the work of the Arab ministerial committee after it has made strides on the path of affirming Lebanon's Arabism and contributing to the attainment of national accord among the Lebanese.

Palestinian Affairs

Source on Planned 'Official' U.S.-PLO Talks

JN2103191889 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1800 GMT 21 Mar 89

[Text] Three days of official talks between the PLO and the United States begin in Tunis tomorrow. This was stated today to the correspondent of Iraqi radio and television by a responsible PLO source. The source said the talks will be held over six sessions, with the Palestinian side headed by Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, PLO Executive Committee member. The Palestinian delegation will comprise 'Abd al-Latif Abu Hijlah, director general of the Political Department, and Hakam Bal'awi, the ambassador of Palestine in Tunis. The Palestinian source added that political prospects will be discussed and the U.S. stand toward the international conference for peace in the region will be explored.

'Arafat Said To Attend

JN2103170389 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 19 Mar 89 p 1

[Text] Tunis—Leading Palestinian sources have told AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM that PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat will take part in the forthcoming round of talks between the PLO and the United States, scheduled to be held in Tunis Wednesday.

The sources said that U.S. Ambassador in Tunis Robert Pelletreau will represent the U.S. side, and 'Arafat will join the Palestinian delegation to the talks.

Given that the agenda includes several important points, the sources expected the session to last for 5 hours.

U.S. Help To End Israeli 'Terrorism' Sought

LD2203110189 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 22 Mar 89

[Text] Shortly before the second round of U.S. Palestinian talks in Tunisia, Mr Bassam Abu Sharif, information advisor to Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat, today in Tunis called on the U.S. Administration to ask the Israeli Government to abandon and end organized state terrorism.

In an interview with TAP, Mr Bassam Abu Sharif said: We call on the United States to ask Israel to recognize the right of the Palestinian people to live peacefully within secure and internationally recognized borders.

Meanwhile, a responsible U.S. source stressed that the Bush administration will work toward developing direct dialogue with the PLO in order to make it a positive factor in the diplomatic moves, currently witnessed in the Middle East, aimed at finding a just and acceptable solution to the Palestinian issue.

PLO Issues Statement on Israeli 'Aggressions'

JN2003172889 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 20 Mar 89

[Text] A Palestinian military spokesman has stated the following:

All the day long Saturday, 18 March 1989, the housing areas in southern Lebanon came under extensive shelling from the positions of the Zionist enemy and agent Lahd. The axes of Baysur, (name indistinct), Lab'ah, 'Ayn al-Mir, Kafr Kiddah, and Kfar Falus were exposed to intesified shelling from heavy and tank artillery. One heroic brother was martyred, and two others were wounded.

This aggressive escalation against housing areas in southern lebanon coincides with the Zionist enemy's escalation against the brave masses of the uprising in our occupied land. The Zionist enemy sent more army and Border Police forces to the battles. The clashes reached their climax in housing areas in the brave city of Gaza the day before yestrerday, when the enemy used helicopters in an attempt to storm the hospitals and quarters. As a result, four of our heroes were martyred in the brave city.

Abu Sharif on Peace Conference Under U.S., USSR

JN2203062889 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 22 Mar 89

[Text] Bassam Abu Sharif, special advisor to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, told journalists in Tunis yesterday that the PLO could agree to convening the proposed international conference for the Middle East peace under the supervision of the United States and the Soviet Union and could agree to the presence of U.S. forces in the occupied Palestinian territories during a transitional period.

'Proposed' U.S. Ideas on Mideast Peace Detailed

JN2103213589 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 20 Mar 89, p 9

[By Basimah Nafadi in Cairo]

[Text] AL-ITTIHAD has learned that the new U.S. Administration has proposed ideas to a number of European countries and the Soviet Union of what might be its "preliminary project" to find a settlement to the Middle East problem.

Informed Palestinian sources said that the PLO has been informed of these ideas and the Palestinian leadership informed President Husni Mubarak of them during his visit to Brussels last Saturday.

Some of these ideas could be summarized as follows:

A transitional stage of 5 years during which the Israeli forces are removed from the occupied territories. Palestinian representatives from the region will be elected to take charge of their affairs until these regions are joined in a confederacy with Jordan, when the problem is finally solved.

Direct negotiations between Israel and the concerned Arab countries according to geographic partitioning under the umbrella of the superpowers, which would provide necessary security guarantees for the final settlement in the Middle East. In addition, this includes stopping the intifadah [uprising] and fedayeen operations coming from southern Lebanon.

Commenting on these U.S. ideas in an exclusive interview with AL-ITTIHAD, PLO Representative Sa'id Kamal rejected the demands of the U.S. Administration to stop the Palestinian intifadah in the occupied territories, claiming that such a step will prepare the atmosphere for holding negotiations in the Middle East. He indicated that such talk is no more than an introduction for attempts at pressuring the PLO.

He added: More important than this are the U.S. ideas that have reached the PLO about Washington's "preliminary view" of the framework to solve the Middle East problem, especially the Palestine question.

He said that these ideas have been passed on to a number of Western countries to review and form their points of view. But they have not been presented to the concerned Arab countries at all.

He said that these ideas were sent to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. These ideas are not by any means the final project to be issued by the United States following the visits of President Husni Mubarak, King Husayn, and Yitzhaq Shamir to Washington and the results of the talks that might resume soon between the United States and the PLO.

He added that these U.S. ideas are characterized by the following:

First: They are not far removed from the framework from which former U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz was proceeding.

Second: They are less than the moves Shultz made because they fully ignore Resolutions 242 and 338 issued by the Security Council as a legal basis for negotiations in the Middle East.

Third: These ideas also talk of attempts at blackmailing the PLO by discussing stopping the intifadah or operations carried out in southern Lebanon. These methods are outmoded, and we cannot go backwards. Right from the start, we supported a policy of patience and firm views as far as dialogue with the United States is concerned. At the same time, we realized the importance of the fact that methods change from administration to administration; however, the policy remains that of the Republicans.

Fourth: Any break in the political bond between the transitional stage and the final stage means strengthening Israeli thoughts on administrative rule.

Fifth: Any attempt at splitting Palestinian representation is an illusion. We do not threaten, but we raise the facts and challenge any committee in the world, including the U.S. committees, to come and see that the Palestinian people are standing the ground of the PLO in its capacity as their sole legitimate representative.

Sixth: At the same time, we agree that the international peace conference is not a goal in itself. It is a means that depends on international legislation to reach a peaceful settlement, which can only be just and permanent. Therefore, we do not want to say that the international conference will be held to bless the direct negotiations because that is an issue that might take a long time. Therefore, we say that the international conference must take place under the supervision of the two superpowers in the presence of Western Europe and China and under the auspices of the United Nations.

He said: As for the mechanism of the international conference, it is a simple issue to solve if the United States convinces Israel of the usefulness of the international conference.

Sa'id Kamal added it is very natural for direct negotiations to be held within the framework of the international conference. Therefore, we are open to all opinions that furnish the idea of international supervision with guarantees. Therefore, talking about the nature of the transitional and final stages and all methods listed under these two stages must be a part of dialogue. And therefore, they will undoubtedly take their natural course in negotiations.

As for the issues ignored by these ideas, we wonder what exactly the U.S. stand is as concerns the issue of Palestinian refugees. What is the U.S. stand on Jerusalem as the capital of the Palestinian state? Also, what is the U.S. stand on the settlements that definitely do exist in the occupied territories?

He said the transitional stage needs an understanding and application of security, as well as future measures for the final solution. All these are interlinked issues, and the United States must give its opinion frankly so that we can build our stand on accurate accounts.

U.S. Role in Regional Conflict Examined

LD1903220489 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 19 Mar 89

[Text] Dear brothers, greetings and here is today's news analysis:

The U.S. role in the regional conflict and in the search for a settlement does not stop at the limit of proposal and dialogue only; it necessarily exceeds that and extends to serious participation in bringing about this settlement. This is not in itself merely a desire on the part of this or that side; it is the political reality that imposes itself through the distinguished alliance between the United States itself and the Zionist entity.

On the basis of this reality, the brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] recently stressed that if the United States wants to hold an international conference, then the leaders of the Zionist entity, hawks and doves, will agree to hold it. Until now George Bush's administration—despite its dialogue with the PLO—has been pursuing the traditional positions of previous U.S. Administrations, without using the political changes that are helping come to a comprehensive regional settlement and the achievement of a just and permament peace, and without clearly and effectively moving toward pressing the Government of Israel and pushing it toward harmony with the march of this peace.

The U.S. proposals mentioned recently in THE NEW YORK TIMES on this do not amount to a realistic and effective U.S. role. It is closer to indifference toward what is happening than to anything else. The lowering of tension, according to the proposal or the public U.S. proposals, will not happen without the frank agreement of Washington on convening an international conference with the participation of all the protagonists, including the PLO, in order to achieve regional peace and stability. It is not reasonable for Washington to postpone or tie such an agreement to the position of the Government of Israel, which is basically rejectionist in nature.

Once again the U.S. position alone is able to determine the final result of the Government of Israel's policy, and not vice versa.

PFLP-GC Lists 'Martyrs' of Israeli Raid

JN2103155789 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1510 GMT 21 Mar 89

[Statement by military spokesman for the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command—date and place not given]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Among the believers are men who have been true to their covenant with God: Of them, some have completed their vow to the extreme, and some still wait: But they have never changed their determination in the least. [Koranic verse]

At 1205 yesterday, Monday, Zionist warplanes launched a barbaric aggression against the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command's [PFLP-GC] administrative centers in Lebanon's Al-Biqa'. Our heroic comrades in the PFLP-GC confronted this treacherous aggression, forcing the enemy planes to flee and withdraw. As a result of this criminal aggression, many unarmed civilians were martyred following the destruction of houses in the area. Several of the PFLP-GC's heroes met with their creator. The martyrs are the following:

1. Comrade struggler Salih 'Abbas 'Abbas—Abu Tariq—PFLP-GC Central Committee member.
2. Comrade struggler Muhammad Rashid Kuraydi—Rashid.
3. Comrade struggler Fu'ad Salih Hasan—Abu Hasan Fu'ad.
4. Comrade struggler Jamal Tirru—Abu Shaqrah.
5. Comrade struggler Khalil 'Abd al-Haq al-Khatib—Abu al-'Abd.
6. Comrade struggler Hamzah Ahmad al-Madhdhbuh—Abu Ahmad Hamzah.
7. Comrade struggler 'Umar Muhammad abu Jib—Abu Mahir.
8. Comrade struggler Khalid Ahmad al-Saghir—Abu Walid.
9. Comrade struggler Kamal al-Dannah.

Eight of our comrades were also slightly wounded. Most of them have left the hospital.

This barbaric aggression against the PFLP-GC's positions has taken place while the U.S.-Zionist threats have intensified against the front and against the Arab forces hostile to the U.S.-Zionist scheme. It also has taken place within the framework of the aggressive measures the Zionists are carrying out against our Palestinian people and against their heroic intifadah [uprising] in the occupied territories and against this people's revolutionary bases, which have decided to pursue the course of armed struggle to achieve liberation and victory in Palestine.

The timing of this aggression with Arens' Washington visit—with the intensification of talk about the liquidation scheme, the increasing announcements by the symbols of the deviationist trend in the Palestinian arena on the desire to visit Jerusalem and meet the Zionists, and the actions of those who champion the isolationist scheme in Lebanon—confirms that the imperialist-Zionist conspiracy has started to be implemented and is part of the preplanned scheme to eliminate armed struggle and deal a blow to the militant Palestinian gun in and outside Palestine to impose a fait accompli by force and terrorism.

We pledge to our martyrs in Lebanon, Palestine, and everywhere that we will pursue the course of confrontation and clashes with the enemy and its agents along the course of armed struggle, which is the basic course for the liberation of Palestine. Glory to every martyr from Lebanon's Al-Biqa' to Gaza. Revolution until the liberation of land and man.

[Signed] The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command.

Palestinian Figures Deny Meeting With Shamir

JN2103184489 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 21 Mar 89

[Text] Palestinian national institutions and personalities in the occupied territories declared anew to the whole world that the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people is the PLO. The enemy radio's claims about meetings between the enemy prime minister and those he described as influential Palestinian personalities are only ridiculous and obvious maneuvers that are not worth a response. The intention behind leaking such information is only a naive attempt to deceive the U.S. Administration and people and delude them into thinking that Israel has an alternative leadership to the PLO.

In a memorandum addressed to the accredited consuls in East Jerusalem and the UN representative, they called on them to inform their governments, people, and the international community of the Israeli scheme to destroy the second oldest city in the world and asked them to stand in the face of Israel, which has as its target the Palestinian individual's history and heritage. Following is the text of the memorandum:

Your excellencies the accredited consuls in East Jerusalem, your excellency the UN representative: Greetings and respect.

We wish to inform your excellencies on what Radio Israel said of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's having met in the past few months with people whom he described as influential Palestinian personalities. The Israeli Prime Minister's Office released this information on 15 March 1989 on television and mentioned that these meetings were held in great secrecy to protect those who attended. The aim of these meetings was to discuss a means of direct negotiations with Palestinians who are not PLO members; these meetings will continue.

From inside the occupied Arab territories, we declare to the whole world, as we did before, that the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people is the PLO. These ridiculous and obvious maneuvers are not worth a response. The aim of leaking them is to deceive the U.S. Administration and people. This maneuver, which does not fool anyone, is timed to come as Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens is holding talks with the U.S. Administration in Washington and before Yitzhaq Shamir's visit to the United States.

We respond to these attempts, which are doomed to failure, by saying: No to autonomy and no to an alternative leadership to the PLO. Our blessed intifadah [uprising] is cutting its way with strength and firmness until the loathed Israeli occupation vanishes and our Palestinian state is established on the soil of our fathers and forefathers under the leadership of the PLO headed by President Yasir 'Arafat.

We also strongly condemn and deny the blatant Israeli aggression on 26 February and 7 March 1989, which targeted Palestinian culture and heritage where Israeli occupation forces dynamited and destroyed a number of old and historic houses in the old city of Nabulus in an attempt to empty the old city of its 30,000 residents.

We call on you to inform your governments, people, and the whole international community of the criminal aggression on Palestinian history and heritage and the blowing up of a 500-year-old building. Inform them also of the Israeli scheme that aims to destroy the second oldest city in the world and stand before the Israeli attack targeting the Palestinian individual's heritage and culture. Let Shamir, Rabin, and other Israeli leaders know that killing children and women, breaking bones, and dynamiting the Palestinian heritage will not enable them to achieve their goal of imposing a one-sided autonomy on us and seeking to find an alternative leadership to the PLO inside the occupied territories. If Shamir and Rabin, along with the Israeli Government, truly want peace, then they have to hold negotiations and accept what was decided on by the international community to hold the international peace conference. Long live the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people headed by Yasir 'Arafat.

This letter was signed by a large number of national political figures and representatives of academic, religious, and union institutions.

PFLP Denounces Meetings

JN2103203389 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2000 GMT 21 Mar 89

[From the "Panorama" program]

[Text] The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] issued a statement today denouncing the contacts that are under way in the occupied territories among several Palestinian and Israeli figures. The PFLP said it views these meetings as a deviation from the resolutions of the sessions of the Palestine National Council and stressed that the PLO is the only party representing the Palestinian people.

PFLP Official Defends Military Operations

JN1403184689 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 13 Mar 89 p 11

[Interview with Abu Ahmad Fu'ad, political bureau member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine—PFLP—and commander of its armed forces in Lebanon, by Hasan Muhammad 'Abdallah; date and place not given]

[Text] ['Abdallah] Why have you chosen this particular time period to escalate military action against Israel from southern Lebanon?

[Fu'ad] As a matter of fact, the operations that have been recently carried out cannot at all be viewed in isolation from the PLO's strategy, from the strategy pursued by the Palestinian revolution factions as regards the escalation of armed struggle against the Zionist enemy, and from translating into deeds the slogan on launching a protracted popular liberation war until the liberation of Palestine. The recent intensification of operations is not at all designed to serve a temporary and instantaneous political objective. The hostile information media are attempting to portray these operations as a reaction to stands and statements that do not fall in harmony with the PNC resolutions and the PLO's charter.

For example, we believe that our main task in Lebanon is to fight against the Zionist enemy and its agents. The other task of the Palestinian rifle is to support and bolster the nationalist plan of the Lebanese nationalist movement. We have never stopped, even for 1 day, our performance of the main task, which is carrying out military operations against the enemy. However, a recent coincidence has surfaced, and this coincidence pertains to the fact that several operations have been carried out in a short period of time. The hostile news media, particularly the U.S. media, criticized and protested against these operations, thus showing the level of enmity harbored by the U.S. Administration toward our Arab nation and our Palestinian people.

['Abdallah] The U.S-Palestinian dialogue has been initiated as a result of the PNC resolutions and of subsequent statements made by 'Arafat on the cessation of military operations against Israel. You approved this. Are then the operations that you are carrying out an attempt to rectify the political ambiguity into which you have fallen?

[Fu'ad] We, as you and all are aware, have disapproved of the recognition of Resolutions No 242 and 338. We also believe that the United States' approval of opening a dialogue with the PLO was an attempt to break the isolation that was encircling it. Besides, we believe that the intifadah [uprising] played the main role in pushing the U.S. Administration toward launching a dialogue with the PLO.

It is correct that we as the PFLP considered this as an accomplishment scored by the PLO and the intifadah. However, we do not view this as an accomplishment brought about by the concessions made by the PLO Executive Committee chairman in Geneva. We announced our stand on this at the time when these concessions were made. In brief, we said that the statements made by the PLO Executive Committee chairman were a flagrant violation of the resolutions adopted at the 19th PNC session and of all PLO Executive Committee resolutions. We also said that it is an individualistic stand that is not binding on the PLO or on its institutions.

Moreover, any statements made or stands taken by Palestinian officials calling for observing a cease-fire, for direct negotiations, or for a cessation of military operations only express the opinions of the individuals making these statements or taking these stands. They do not reflect the real stand of PLO institutions. Hence, our activities are in line with our policies and with the stands of the PLO's legislative institutions. This has been confirmed by the statements made by some PLO Executive Committee members and some PLO factions condemning individualistic statements and stands. These statements said that the PLO has not pledged to the U.S. Administration or to any other party that it will cease its military operations against the enemy.

['Abdallah] Do you not believe that it is unrealistic to say that the operations you are carrying out do not have a political objective?

[Fu'ad] Military operations are bound to be motivated by a political objective. As for us, we do not seek through the operations that we are carrying out to end the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue. However, inasmuch as carrying out operations is part of our strategic line, we seek to tell the world public opinion and the U.S. Administration that it is our legitimate right to launch this kind of struggle, as the UN charter and the conventions of international legitimacy recognize this as a legitimate right and not as terrorism.

['Abdallah] Do you think that the continuation of the military operations would end the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue?

[Fu'ad] It would if some Palestinian leaders pledged to the Americans to stop these operations. I think that the U.S. Administration itself also needs the dialogue because it realized that the PLO has no partner in representing the Palestinian people. The intifadah also has a leadership, namely the PLO. Consequently, any U.S. political move in the region cannot possibly ignore the role of the PLO and its representation of the Palestinian people inside the occupied territories and in the diaspora.

['Abdallah] What are the political implications that military operations have on the Palestinian situation?

[Fu'ad] We have felt the great satisfaction of all PLO factions. It is known that three PLO factions carried out several operations. This means that there were no commitments made by the PLO to halt military operations.

['Abdallah] What about Yasir 'Arafat?

[Fu'ad] 'Arafat has not officially informed PLO institutions of a decision to halt operations. Also, the Palestinan delegation that held the dialogue with the U.S. ambassador in Tunis categorically denied that it pledged to stop military operations. We reject 'Arafat's statements on a truce and a cease-fire; we consider them personal views not binding to the PLO.

['Abdallah] Will your military action continue to be confined to the Lebanese-Israeli front?

[Fu'ad] We are focusing our efforts on escalating and deepening the intifadah inside the occupied homeland and on using all militant methods to realize the goal of freedom and independence. The PFLP and the other revolution factions will continue military activities through the Lebanese-Palestinian borders and the other Arab fronts adjacent to Palestine.

['Abdallah] And outside this framwork?

[Fu'ad] Our basic aim is to fight our Zionist enemy. Activities against the enemy outside these regions depend on political developments.

['Abdallah] How?

[Fu'ad] We will retaliate against enemy crimes perpetrated abroad against our people and the revolution leaders and cadres.

['Abdallah] Is this a warning?

[Fu'ad] Yes. We more than once retaliated against operations against us by the Zionist enemy. I want to say that the Unified Leadership of the intifadah inside the occupied territories has plans to confront any escalation by the enemy. Revolution forces outside will retaliate against any massacres perpetrated against our people.

['Abdallah] The current atmosphere in southern Lebanon is very similar to the atmosphere that was prevailing before the Israeli invasion of 1982. Do you expect a new Israeli invasion?

[Fu'ad] Yes. We do not rule out the likelihood of the enemy launching a wide-scale military action against, in particular, the Palestinian revolution forces and the Lebanese nationalist and Islamic movement. The reasons are as follows:

1. Through our field surveillance operations, we have noticed abnormal movement inside the occupied border strip.

2. The agent Lahd army has been greatly reinforced.

3. Fortifications and roads to facilitate the movement of enemy vehicles have been built in the occupied border strip.

Through its intended military operation, the enemy aims at influencing our people's intifadah. It will perhaps try, at the same time, to perpetrate massacres against our masses in the occupied territories. The enemy aims secondly to destroy the infrastructure of the Palestinian revolution forces and the Lebanese national resistance front. The enemy also aims at supporting its agents in Lebanon and expanding the deployment of the so-called South Lebanese Army.

We, therefore, call on all Palestinian and Lebanese forces to unify their efforts and capabilities to lay down a joint confrontation plan that prevents the enemy from realizing its goals.

'Arafat Addresses Palestinians in Territories

JN2103084389 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1956 GMT 29 Mar 89

["Text" of message by Yasir 'Arafat, identified by his nom de guerre Abu 'Ammar, to Palestinians in the occupied territories on 20 March—read by announcer]

[Text] O sons of our great Palestinian people; O masses of the valiant popular intifadah [uprising]; O heroes—men, women, and children of our people in Gaza and Nabulus; O brave people in Shaykh Radwan, Al-Maghazi, Al-Burayj, Al-Shati', Al-Nusayrat, Dayr al-Balah, Rafah, Khan Yunus, Nabulus, Silat al-Harithiyah, Qabatiyah, and everywhere on our Palestinian land: Here you are continuing the epic of valiant resistance. Here you are, with your blood and stones, writing pages of glory and pride for our people and defeating the armed-to-the-teeth occupier. Here, our people's masses in our cities, camps, and villages rise to respond to the Zionist crimes. They take to the streets to impose their authority and confront the occupation forces and to declare, once again, that they will continue their intifadah under the PLO banner until victory.

O masses of our great people; O militants in the Unified Leadership; the popular committees; and women, youth, villagers, workers, professional, trade, academic, and student frameworks: It was expected that the occupiers, when encircled before the world and forced to remain in the corner of suffocating international isolation by your stones, would resort to more crimes in a new and desperate attempt to break the bone of the intifadah. But, their attempts were foiled and their measures failed. Here, the intifadah is escalating, and precious Palestinian blood defeats the unjust swords of occupation. [passage indistinct] all Zionist oppressive attempts and organized state terrorism.

This new criminal wave collapses like all previous waves before [passage indistinct]. Our people will remain united and giant, declaring that there is no alternative to Israeli withdrawl, no alternative to the PLO, and no alternative to wresting the right to self-determination and establishing the independent state.

O masses of our great people: Amid these glorious moments, I extend a greeting to you—a greeting of pride and glory to the souls of martyrs, the loyal sons of our people. Greetings to the wounded, the heroes, and the brave detainees. Greetings of appreciation and admiration to all masses in all positions while they escalate their intifadah and challenge the enemy and its weapons.

O heroes: The hour of freedom is approaching. This Israeli hallucination is an indication of impotence and confusion before these continuous struggles that leave their clear marks on the world's conscious and open the road toward the hour of freedom.

Let us bolster our struggles. Let us bolster our unity. Let us increase our cadres' (?concern). Let us bolster the mass discipline within the popular frameworks and the Unified Leadership. Our sacred stones will defeat those occupiers, who are armed with myths and who insist on living outside history and the age.

Intifadah until the state is established. Steadfastness until victory. Dawn is forthcoming, and victory is forthcoming.

Algeria

Niger's President Saibou Arrives for 3-Day Visit

LD2003113389 Algiers APS in English 1015 GMT 20 Mar 89

[Text] Algiers, 20/3/89 (APS)—General Ali Saibou, head of the Military Higher Council [title as received], president of the Republic of Niger arrived Sunday [19 March] here on a three day visit upon invitation of President Chadli Bendjedid.

President Saibou who was quitted [as received] by President Chadli Bendjedid said in a statement at arrival that the geographical and historical links between Algeria and Niger and relations of cooperation and friendship are reality between the two countries." [no opening quotation marks as received]

During my visit, Ali Saibou said, I will have talks with President Bendjedid on African unity, edification of the Arab Great Maghreb and topical problems.

I will have also, President Saibou added, to express recognition of the Nigerian [as received] people for all efforts made by Algeria in favour of a credible African unity.

Political talks between the two heads of state started early in the afternoon.

Meets With Bendjedid 20 Mar

LD2003132489 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 20 Mar 89

[Excerpt] The president of Niger, Ali Saibou, has been in Algiers since yesterday on a working and friendly visit.

A new round of private political talks between President Chadli Bendjedid and Ali Saibou was held at the headquarters of the Presidency of the Republic this morning, the 2d day of the visit.

The talks between the two presidents covered bilateral relations and ways to strengthen them, and other issues of common interest. [passage omitted]

Joint Statement Released

LD2203035489 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 21 Mar 89

[Text] The visit to Algeria by Ali Saibou, the Niger head of state, ended with the release of a final statement stating that the Algeria and Niger had expressed their satisfaction with the excellent relations that linked them on a basis of good neighborliness and friendship.

The two sides affirmed their resolve constantly to strengthen these relations in the future and in whatever manner serves the joint interests of the two countries and peoples in various economic, social, cultural, and scientific-technical fields.

Presidents Chadli Bendjedid and Ali Saibou are committed to working on a joint strategy to combat locusts and desertification, two issues that threaten the efforts of the two countries to achieve self-sufficiency in food.

The two heads of state hailed the positive developments in relations among the Maghreb countries on the question of re-establishing the Arab Maghreb Union, which constitutes an important stage in strengthening Arab-African solidarity toward African unity.

Both sides affirmed their resolve to work for strengthening African unity, which represents the ideal basis for dialogue and consultation in settling African problems; and to support the excellent principle of liberation in the continent.

The two presidents saluted the efforts of Morocco and the Polisario Front to establish an atmosphere of assurance and confidence to allow the implementation of the UN and OAU peace plans.

The two sides agreed to hold the coming session of the mixed commission this year to revive bilateral cooperation.

President Ali Saibou extended an invitation to President Chadli Benjedid to pay an official visit to Niger. The invitation was gratefully accepted. The date will be fixed later.

Concludes Visit, Departs

LD2103132189 Algiers APS in English 1140 GMT 21 Mar 89

[Text] Algiers, 21/3/89 (APS)—Niger President Ali Saibou left Algiers Tuesday [21 March] at the end of a three day official visit to Algeria. The Nigerian [as received] head of state was seen of by the president of the Republic.

Presidents Chadli Bendjedid and Ali Saibou had this morning a last series of talks here.

It is worth recalling that the Nigerian head of state arrived Sunday [19 March] here. Bilateral relations and means to reinforce them, as well as questions of common interest, were at the center of political talks.

FRG Economic Cooperation Minister Arrives

LD2003112389 Algiers APS in English 1018 GMT 20 Mar 89

[Text] Algiers, 20 Mar 89 (APS)—The federal minister of economic cooperation in the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) arrived Sunday [19 March] here for a 3 day official visit at the invitation of the finance minister.

After his arrival, Hans Klein told the press that his visit to Algeria comes few weeks after the Marrakech summit adding that the FRG considers as positive the result of this summit, and in which Algeria has efficiently contributed. "We are ready to support this way be continued, as Algeria which is an important partner of Europe and the FRG has played an important role in the edification of the Arab Maghreb."

The West German minister, who was welcomed by his Algerian counterpart, Sayed Ahmed Ghazali, will have talks with members of the government.

It is worth noting that the visit of Klein to Algeria falls in the frame of his tour in the Arab Maghreb.

Received by President

LD2103115989 Algiers APS in English 1018 GMT 21 Mar 89

[Text] Algiers 21/3/89 (APS)—President Chadli Bendjedid, received Monday here, Hans Klein, minister of economic cooperation in FRG.

The audience took place in presence of the Minister of Finance Sayed Ahmed Ghazali and president of the Algero-German parliamentary group, Rudolph Klaus.

Summarizes Discussions

LD2103120289 Algiers APS in English 1010 GMT 21 Mar 89

[Text] Algiers, 21/3/89 (APS)—Algeria and the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) have "excellent" relations, minister of economic cooperation in the Federal Republic, Hans Klein, declared Monday after he had been audienced by President Chadli Bendjedid here.

"We have discussed about the privileged relations existing between our two countries and informed President Chadli Bendjedid on the aim of my visit to Algeria which consists in bringing the support of the FRG to efforts made for the unification of the Great Arab Maghreb," Klein said.

President Chadli Bendjedid, he underlined, informed me on efforts made for the developdment of Algeria and the great importance it gives to cooperation with Arab Maghreb countries on the one hand and with EEC on the other hand.

We have also dealt with the various beds of tension in the world and we have reached the conclusion that the international community must continue its action in order to reach a settlement to various conflicts through peaceful means.

On another development, the foreign minister conferred with Hans Klein on the prospect of the development of bilateral cooperation and the international topical questions.

On his turn, Minister of Energy, Chemical and Petrochemical Industries, Sadek Boussena, conferred with the West German minister on possibilities to supply the FRG with Algerian natural gas. They also dealt with the project of the west gas pipeline aimed at supplying Europe and mainly the West German market with gas.

Egypt

Mubarak Addresses People's Assembly 20 Mar

NC2003130089 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0843 GMT 20 Mar 89

[Speech by President Husni Mubarak to a joint session of the People's Assembly and Consultative Council in Cairo—live]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful and compassionate. Sister and brother members of the People's Assembly and the Consultative Council, from the depth of my heart, I welcome you to this historic meeting, which represents a great event—namely, Tabah's return to Egypt—in our national and pan-Arab struggle to establish peace [applause]. Yes, this is a great national event.

I thought I should invite you to this meeting on this momentous occasion. You represent the various sects and groups of the Egyptian people. This is a great people, whose Armed Forces, made up of your sons, had achieved the most magnificent military victory in contemporary Arab history, with all courage, daring spirit, and faith. [applause] This victory was regarded by all circles as a brilliant example of ingenious planning and supreme performance, coupled with the audacity and the daring spirit for which the Egyptian fighter has been known over the ages. I invited you to this historic meeting because you represent the various groups and sects of the great Egyptian people, who made their domestic front the most invincible shield protecting the Armed Forces during battle and sacrifice.

The awareness of this great people has risen to the level of truly realizing that we did not enter war for the sake of war, for expansionist goals, or for regional ambitions. We entered war to achieve a more sublime goal, that is, peace, a peace from a powerful and dignified position and motivated by the free nationalist will. It is a peace motivated by our faith that the land is sacred and the national soil is a trust handed to men over generations. [applause] It is a peace based on justice and mutual respect for sovereignty. The world, near and far, and with its different doctrinal camps, has known that we entered the war only after the world had turned a deaf ear to our persistent call for peace. After the 1967 setback, some claimed that we had become a crippled state and thus had to accept the consequences of such a setback. We regarded this as submission, not peace. Afterwards, the world discovered that we are capable.

Therefore, our call for peace following the October War resulted in respect, confidence, and appreciation from the world. Our call for peace was also a reflection of strong and firm popular will, full of self-confidence and faith in the noble goal.

Despite this, our struggle for peace was not a bed of roses. It was a struggle of challenge and determination in the face of tremendous obstacles and barriers. Achieving peace was one of the greatest events in our contemporary history.

Maneuvering on the international stage, with all its strong, conflicting, and contradictory currents, is not an easy matter. Along with the need to keep a tight hold on one's rights, it requires patience, wisdom, and deep understanding. At the negotiating table, after long years of hatred, destruction, and suspicion, no agreement is easily or simply reached. Parties bring expected and unexpected problems, and these require arguments and counter-arguments by those concerned. This is a truly tiring process, which is known only to those whose destiny puts them in a position of command or responsibility, or those whose national commitment dictates they hold tight to their rights, without retreat or abandonment.

It is no longer a secret that the months preceding the complete Israeli withdrawal from the territories of the homeland on 24 April 1982 were among the most difficult and arduous phases in our contemporary history. We faced several attempts to put pressure on us and bend our will, but we were neither weakened or shaken. Nor was our will broken. On the contrary, we continued to adhere to the position that we deemed would best serve the supreme interests of both Egypt and the Arab world.

The full withdrawal did take place, but the problem of Tabah surfaced. Tabah is a very small area, but the significance behind this problem is, in our opinion, grave and serious because it is related to something that we could never give up, regardless of the circumstances: maintaining sovereignty over the land and preserving the sanctity of the national soil. [applause] Sovereignty over the land is a trust for all generations and should be held in the hearts of all Egyptians and in their commitment to preserve the homeland's territories. The sovereignty of the land is a sacred oath to which the head of state and any citizens living in the homeland's territories are equally committed.

Sovereignty over the land is the primary responsibility being shouldered by the leadership and all the state's institutions in the name of the masses. History will bring us to account should we harm or relinquish sovereignty over the land. Hence, our sincere, decisive words: Every inch of the land means the whole land. Every handful of national soil means the entire nation. Egypt's flags will continue to fly high over every inch of land and every handful of soil. [applause]

Due to our commitment to peace, we sincerely and impartially tried to end this Israeli-prompted dispute through negotiations. But when the negotiations failed to achieve the aspired objective, we had no other option but to refer the issue to arbitration in accordance with the peace treaty.

Egypt was represented by the Egyptian team which had defended Egyptian rights before the international court. Our scientists of various political affiliations, our experts, our diplomats, and our devout Egyptian citizens have volunatarily supplied us with historical information and documents, as well as with maps that were not wasily obtained. Egypt, which belongs to all Egyptians, was the line defending the right of every citizen in his own land. Egypt was the voice of Egyptian sovereignty over the national soil. The national objective is the Mecca for everyone through struggle, cohesion, zeal, and force. The Egyptian right will never be lost since 50 million Egyptians are behind it. [applause] Tabah returned to Egypt's sovereignty because of the international court's verdict. The verdict very clearly stipulates the steps to ensure sound implementation according to the timetable.

As I have told you, brothers and sisters, peace is not always a road always paved or covered with flowers. Hence, negotiations over the implementation steps encountered new hurdles and obstacles which tried to link Egypt's exercise of sovereignty over Tabah with other issues that are absolutely irrelevant to the issue of sovereignty. Egypt also stated things decisively. Our position was firm, our will was solid, and our word was heard worldwide. [applause]

All of you recall the statement I made in reply to obstruction attempts. I said that the exercise of Egyptian sovereignty over the land will not be linked to any other issue and there can be absolutely no bargaining over this issue.

Today we hold this historic meeting after the ruling of the international arbitration panel has been fully implemented. There is no longer a dispute over the location of the international borders in any one place.

In this regard it is only fair to note with gratitude and appreciation the positive and effective role which the United States has played in reaching this solution and guaranteeing its implementation. This role has made it necessary for the U.S. Administration to hold constant contacts with the two sides, and to present its objective views as a partner to the peace process. This occurred because of its eagerness to strengthen stability and security in the region and its efforts to provide favorable conditions to create more hope and prove to all the people that the road to peace is the shortest one for respecting rights and establishing justice between various parties.

This U.S. role has narrowed the gap between the two parties' stands in various instances and enabled them to overcome obstacles which would have delayed reaching acceptable solutions which agree with the law and sovereignty.

On the other hand, we must mention that Israel ultimately honored its promises, and chose to commit itself to the provisions of the peace accord and the arbitration ruling. Thus, it has contributed to the achievement of this positive result, which will reflect well on the atmosphere of peace and conciliation, not only between Egypt and Israel, but also between Israel and all Arab parties who were interested in following up the developments of the issue in the smallest details and in following the Israeli reaction when the matter concerned honoring promises and respecting commitments.

We have to ask ourselves: What does the return of Tabah mean? First and foremost, Tabah's return means respecting Egypt's sovereignty. It gives historic evidence to Egypt's insistence on its rights and is an eternal symbol of the victory of national willpower when the people know their way, have goodwill, and unite their ranks to pursue national interests. It proves our sincere commitment to the spirit of peace and international norms. All these meanings are crowned by what is of greatest significance—our correct choice of peace.

There is a big difference between choosing peace with awareness and willpower, and maneuvering in the name of peace. Choosing peace means a real contribution to fulfilling man's mission to always create life.

The option of peace means that we ought to support goodwill efforts throughout the world to protect mankind's heritage, existence, and civilization from all kinds of annihilation, destruction, and subversion. The option for peace means that we should participate in building a new world based on cohesion, solidarity, respect for rights, and performance of duties. It also means creating a favorable atmosphere so man can use his thoughts, work, potential, and expertise to enrich human society and let people live lives free of horror, anxiety, and threats. The peace option is a real belief in brotherhood and equality on this planet with its billions of people of every race and color. It is a belief that will back good and conquer evil. The peace option is the choice of mind and spirit, a mind that creates life, and a spirit that will surround this life with profound feelings of humanity and pride. Since life began, the world has lived through destructive wars. Empires, based on expansion, haughtiness, and military superiority, rose and fell, annihilated lives, scorched societies, and turned human life into one continuous funeral procession. Thus, the temporal glory eroded and only the eternal reality remained. This affirms that God Almighty has created man to work, promote good, and enrich his life with values, virtues, and religious principles.

If life is a conflict between good and evil, peace supports good. Hence, peace is a continuous battle whose weapon is the great spiritual force with which God has endowed us. He has done so that we might look after the weak, defend the right of the oppressed, challenge violence and tyranny, and promote the values which God has given mankind as a privilege over the rest of his creatures.

We have experienced wars in our region in contemporary life. What good have these wars done? What good have wars done? What have expansion and aggression yielded? Huge amounts of money have been exhausted, which could have built houses, schools, and hospitals for housing, education, and medical care. Innocent lives have been annihilated instead of enjoying security and prosperity. Tears have been shed, grief spread; war did not spare the children, elderly people, and women. This has happened in every territory that has witnessed aggression or from where aggression was staged. Advocates of the theory which says security must be realized by force of arms have become aware that weapons will bring about only a disturbed security—always ready for fresh battles which may never end. Weapons will only leave behind a society ravaged by fear and skepticism, exhausted by the barriers of mistrust and malice, and haunted by a continuous call for reprisal and revenge.

We are in the age of the freedom of man. There can be no freedom without peace. A free man can only be happy in a peaceful society. There can be no peaceful society unless our will and our efforts are united so that we can impose peace and safeguard it. These are not mere slogans but steps for persistent and constant action. To this day the world has not recovered from the consequences of World War II which erupted 50 years ago. That war has caused hundreds of local wars and some of these are still raging in certain regions. The weapons and destruction industries have become the largest and most profitable industries in the world. Arms trade has become a harbinger of evil everywhere.

The superpowers have realized that they would be responsible for annihilating humanity in any future war because the forces of destruction have become terrible, horrible, and capable of killing millions, even of eliminating the human race in a few minutes or seconds. This is why these powers are getting together today to erect obstacles to prevent such a possible fate. What is taking place now makes the small countries and their people doubly responsible for getting together and rallying for the defense of their peace and that of the world.

Egypt will not shirk its responsibility in this great struggle. From our responsibilities regarding peace stems our commitment to the principle of the comprehensive and just peace that uproots conflict, tackles the issue from all sides, and safeguards for each party its legitimate rights and interests. Our support for the fraternal Arab and African peoples in their struggle against aggression, oppression, and exploitation was based on our commitment to peace.

Our position with fraternal Iraq in repulsing aggression, respecting national sovereignty, and being committed to the rule of law was for the sake of peace and out of conviction and commitment. On this occasion we should put it on record that Iraq has not stopped calling, amid the ferocious battles, for an end to fighting and for negotiations for the sake of peace. [applause]

What was the result of war and aggression? What was the result of continuing the war except more destruction, the exhaustion of resources for development and building, the killing of tens of thousands of people, and the return to the natural solution, that is peace, after all this destruction and ruin?

With our faith in peace, we have been able to set up a sound base on which the process leading to the solution of the Palestinian people's problem could begin. Thus, an agreement was reached between Jordan and the PLO. The PLO then made its courageous decision to recognize Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. This was followed by the U.S. decision to change its position and begin to deal with the PLO. Then there were the joint efforts—which are still at the most active stage—to hold the international conference in preparation for direct negotiations to establish this people's right to their land and their fate.

Thus you see, brothers and sisters, that our struggle for peace is continuous and ceaseless. This is a firm position we have adopted on the basis of faith and principle. The return of Tabah to Egypt and Egypt's complete sovereignty over it are the fruit of this principled and unshakable position. It is the inevitable result of our faith that the voice of peace is the stronger and more lasting. We know that we have to take several steps to reach the just and lasting peace. Peace is not a mere pause to prepare for war operations. Complete peace provides real and practical guarantees precluding the outbreak of battles again. We have submitted proposals for providing these guarantees at more than one international forum, and we are prepared to discuss guarantees and arrangements which others may suggest to reduce the possibility of the outbreak of war again.

After this, there remains the big question: What does peace mean to us regarding development at home? Peace permits us first, to compensate for some of the losses we sustained during the wars. We will never be able to compensate for the souls of the sincerest and bravest men who sacrificed their pure souls to defend this land, preserve sovereignty, and safeguard freedom. However, we will, through constructive work, pay our great debt to these innocent martyrs. Their sacrifice of their lives for the sake of the homeland's life will not be in vain. The martyrs of the fighting and those injured in the battles are the vanguard of the warriors who fought for peace. The continuous preparations to provide our Armed Forces with the most up-to-date technology of the age and their hard and sophisticated training are a continuous activity to safeguard peace.

We endured the loss of billions of pounds in the four wars which we entered within 30 years to defend Arab rights. We lived through the war economy with all its heavy burdens on our resources, utilities, and daily life during the periods in between the wars. Thus, the process of reconstruction was exhausting and difficult. We endured what was beyond our capacity, and this prompted us to seek foreign loans in order to establish the infrastructure for all the development activities. Had there been no peace, the burdens would have been doubled. You can imagine what the development efforts would have been like had we not entered the age of peace. We have endured, are still enduring, and will continue to endure. We have sacrificed and are still sacrificing. In the hearts of the masses, the hopes for prosperity have been linked with aspirations for peace. This is a natural psychological situation. In our battle for reconstruction, we had to rebuild much of our infrastructure all over again. We had to redouble our efforts to attain our targets on short deadlines, for we were considerably behind in our renovation schedules.

In doing so, we opted for a policy of frankness with the public. Every citizen in this country now knows the facts and their implications. Thank God, we have taken the first steps on the road to reform and economic reconstruction. We have started to act according to a well-planned development scheme and according to a comprehensive reform program. We have gone in the direction of becoming more self-reliant. Our method is to use all unexploited potentials, particularly in manufacturing tools of production and achieving self-sufficiency in food production.

All these are outward signs of a stability that would enrich the march for peace and open the horizons for new accomplishments in all the domains of reconstruction.

Brothers and sisters, all those who examine the nature of the Egyptian people agree that our people grow stronger in the face of ordeal, become creative in the face of hardship, and cooperate in the face of challenge and uncertainty.

These traits are evident in all our battles. Our fighters risked their lives without hesitation, and our citizens never wavered in the face of sacrifice. These traits were also evident when we signed the peace accords and marched ahead on the road of comprehensive peace. Our great people, by the millions, supported the peace efforts. They proved to history and to the whole world that they want peace and harmony. It is our destiny and duty to unite today and release our potential with knowledge and enthusiasm.

Reinstituting Egyptian sovereignty over Tabah was the outcome of a collective national effort, and it was a wonderful achievement. We have another national task ahead of us for which we will need similar unity—the task of rebuilding our country. Sovereignty over the land does not consist in just hoisting flags. The flags that are hoisted and the state laws that are enforced are merely the indications of the exercise of sovereignty. The substance of sovereignty, however, is that every citizen feels in charge of his destiny and lives with a sense of security for himself, his children, and his homeland. Our citizens should be able to produce their necessary needs in a society governed by justice and equality in rights and responsibilities.

These are our greatest national goals. We have raised the flags of sovereignty together, and we also have to raise together the flags of a dignified life for every citizen.

I am using the opportunity available to me in this historical gathering today to address a genuine and sincere appeal to all parties and democratic groupings that we all begin, with chaste feelings, a fresh phase in the national work. [applause] Let us set aside the differences of view on various political issues which do not block the way to efforts and agreement on these issues. In my patriotic opinion, they are not pressing issues to which we should give priority. Priority is to be given to the welfare of the people. [applause] Let us put aside the differences so that all efforts and thoughts may be unified and so that we can define a course of national action that will achieve the great awakening, whose signs began to appear clearly in numerous aspects of reconstruction.

The goal of stability lies ahead of us. This is an issue that cannot tolerate any argument or difference. I repeat, it cannot tolerate argument or difference. [applause] It represents an umbrella for protecting all construction efforts. Any undermining of stability poses a threat to everybody and constitutes a blow to peace. Thus, safeguarding stability is in the forefront of the priorities of national action.

Ahead of us lies the task of providing productive work for every able-bodied citizen. If work is a right, it is also a national duty. We must help every able-bodied citizen to perform this patriotic duty. Our goal is to increase production in order to double our exports and stop the importation of commodities which Egyptian minds and hands can produce. Our goal is to spread medium-sized and small industries to various parts of the country according to the environmental and regional circumstances. Our goal is to develop the desert and increase the size of arable land. Our goal is to double our tourist resources and turn our archeological sites, which embrace one-sixth of the world's antiquities, into great tourist attraction areas. Our goal is to turn the Egyptian village into a productive cell that will contribute to outlining the features of a new Egypt.

The aim before us is to fight waste in all aspects of our lives, either by limiting consumption and reducing losses at home and in the factory, or by reducing individual and collective expenditures and appearances. We must pay attention to the implantation of these values in people's hearts for the sake of the future, so that they will become a principal factor in their conduct and in the way they look at matters, as is the case in all the developed countries.

The aim before us is to protect the young from the physical and moral degeneration to which they are subjected through drugs or wrong and misleading ideas. We must bring them up with the values and requirements of the new construction so that they and the construction can rise to new heights.

These are, brothers and sisters, current and constant aims. They are just, necessary, and basic ones that arouse our patriotism and urge our feelings of belonging to Egypt to be a single, challenging, and united procession. [applause] We are all Egyptians. We are all patriots. If the start-up of the democratic march has allowed erroneous practices and violations, and I reiterate erroneous practices and violations, then the spirit of sound democracy can get us out of this stage and take us to new horizons where the dividing lines between right and wrong are clear and where the national responsibility of every citizen is accentuated, regardless of his position.

We must be aware of and alert to the fact that the arena of national action in all our democratic groupings does not include disputes that spoil the democratic practice and, in some instances, turn it into a repulsive image which we, both supporters and opposition, would not accept for ourselves. I do not want to touch on painful details that you all know of—details which have harmed Egypt before harming any particular individuals. I heard of them abroad with sorrow and regret. [applause]

Our democratic life... [Mubarak here talks to audience] Someone wants to clap. Why are you angry? [laughter] He is excited. You are really strange... [Mubarak continues with speech] Is freedom affected by this only? Have patience because I have patience. I pray to God to give me patience. I do not want to touch here on painful details, which you all know of and which have harmed Egypt. Our democratic life is the focus of attention where ideas are put forth not only by those from our land but also by those from across the borders. Whoever is trying, either intentionally or unintentionally, to defame the beautiful image with a reckless action or foolish behavior is an enemy of democracy. He is an enemy of freedom, an element of retreat, and a tool of denial and defeat. Democratic and constitutional traditions must be respected. Civilized dealing—underline this—with events is dictated by commitment to democracy.

The constitutional arenas for democratic practice must be shown respect and dignity. Whatever takes place in them must be a lesson taught to generations and be a lighthouse for guidance so that our sons, future generations, and our people can grow up in a climate of clean freedom and with a respectable and clean democratic record. This should be done through word, argument, and proof, and not through evil, reckless, and sinful actions.

This is your responsibility, all of you brothers and sisters. There is nothing more dangerous for democracy than demagoguery from any quarter. The leaders of the parties and democratic groupings bear the major share of responsibility. They would be relinquishing their responsibility if they tolerated, maneuvered, or showed weakness before the trends of blind bias. There is nothing more sublime than dialogue under the umbrella of democracy. There is nothing stronger than the ability to tolerate the opposite point of view.

The democratic balances are always just. Democracy rejects the dictatorship of the majority and also rejects the tyranny of the minority. Democracy is a step forward and an enrichment of constitutional and human values. It will not be a course of backwardness, chaos, and the wasting of man's values and morals.

Our young people need a good model. Our people need a good example. Whoever wants to shoulder the responsibility of national action in any position must abide by the conduct of the example and be eager to unite with the masses, express their issues, and be committed to their priorities, because these priorities set out the higher national objectives and ensure freedom from narrow-minded interests that stem from personal concepts or interests.

Our society is a big family where action brings about a reaction. There is not a single instance of action that is not followed up and supervised by the masses, who have the primary interest in these actions. This is the constitutional parliamentary system.

Political action, brothers and sisters, is not a mere raising of slogans. How much have we suffered from slogans raised to eventually be forgotten? Political action is an activity, mental dialogue, developmental steps, and interaction with the masses. The masses expect positive moves, good work, and real development which translates the slogan into taking care of their demands, needs, and right to a dignified life. Prior to any other definition, political action is also faith and commitment. I do not doubt nor do I cast doubt on the faith of those engaged in political action and on their commitment, despite their various ideologies, principles, and causes. Therefore, I reiterate my appeal to all to set aside the mantle of parties and affiliation in their efforts to achieve the national goals on which no two people differ, or, more precisely, with which no one should disagree.

The first round of exercising democracy has passed with its positive and negative aspects. We must take strides together to new rounds characterized by their positiveness through sound action and good intentions. I hope that my repeated appeal will receive sincere response. I believe that I am expressing the pulse of the masses—all the masses. I do not want to elaborate further on these concepts.

Brothers and sisters, if we look at the events that recently took place in the Middle East area, we will find out that they do bolster the tendency toward peace and highlight the need to use existing opportunities to achieve peace.

The intensive contacts we have had with all the local and international sides concerned with the area's affairs have shown that everyone feels the need to change the current situation based on occupation and violence. This situation will never be able to continue and survive regardless of the force to which it resorts. We must try to provide objective circumstances to guarantee the transfer to a new situation in which the two sides will live side by side in amity and dignity and will fully respect each other's freedom, sovereignty, and equality.

The contacts we recently had with the two superpowers demonstrated that they realize the importance of preparing without delay for the start of peace negotiations within the framework of the international conference. What remains for us is to translate this preparation into a dynamic active position which has its own mechanism, and is capable of creating the required changes on the ground.

Meanwhile, all the Arab sides which expressed their eagerness to participate in the peace process agree with the ways to confront the challenges facing peace and they shoulder their responsibilities. The Arab sides have proven their ability to eliminate the obstacles which impede the road and march of peace.

Although Israel admits the impossibility of the continuation of the present situation in the occupied territories, it is clear that its steps are still faltering and that it has not yet made up its mind. We believe that it is in Israel's interest to prepare itself to participate in an international peace conference and not to be afraid of such a conference, as it will be held without prior conditions. Israel also must change its policy in the occupied Arab territories, because recourse to violence can only breed more violence, hatred, and bitterness. Also, the lessons of history have taught us that a people's will can never be vanquished.

It is a source of satisfaction that the new U.S. Administration under President George Bush has shown interest in reactivating the U.S. role in the peace process by following up the efforts of the administration of the former president and adding to them. This increases the possibilities of achieving tangible progress toward peace in the coming months. We believe that the circumstances are appropriate for reactivating the U.S. role—welcomed by all parties—especially at this phase which is witnessing a deepening of the atmosphere of detente between the two superpowers. This phase is also marked by a clear and constructive Soviet position and an effective European role.

Among other developments inspiring hope and enhancing confidence in the future has been the establishment of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] among Egypt, Iraq, Jordan and the Yemen Arab Republic. [applause] The establishment of the ACC is a step toward coordinating Arab efforts in the fields that benefit the Arab people and serve their common interests. Therefore, it has been agreed that the ACC founding members should concentrate efforts in the fields of agricultural and industrial production. This will enable a better exploitation of the production capacity of these countries, create new work opportunities, accelerate the assimilation of modern technological methods compatible with our environment and requirements, and provide a greater ability for competition with other economic blocs in various areas of the world.

It is clear that the ACC enables the member countries and those which will join it in the future to enter into a new experiment based on serious and objective work which keeps away from ringing slogans and seeks to achieve cooperation and integration among the Arab interests in the Maghreb and the Levant. Perhaps the ACC will serve as an example for joint Arab action in the future and an indicator of the fields in which joint pan-Arab efforts are fruitful. In other words, the ACC is the property of all Arabs and does not exclude anyone. Brothers and sisters, I again want to say that I invited you to this historic meeting in order to talk about the significance—which I hope will rest in the heart of every Egyptian—of the complete liberation of Egyptian territory and the resumption of Egypt's exercising its sovereignty over Tabah.

I want to reiterate that the word is an expression of a deed, but the deed must exist first. The requirements of national action in its connected stages of economic, political, and social reconstruction are to speed up the steps with an intense, common thought: to always benefit from our mistakes without ever thinking that it is not possible to do better than before. Self-criticism is better and more useful than criticizing others because it is easy to criticize others.

Patriotism is not the monopoly of one party. Competition to achieve a better life is the method which we all must accept. The measure of success is accomplishment; it is the constant look toward new horizons. Views and ideas may differ in the quest for these horizons, but there are no differences regarding the goal. Time must not be wasted on useless quarrels, efforts must not be wasted by concealing the lights and closing the windows, good work must not be frustrated through suspicion and despair, no evil should triumph over good, and no falsehood should destroy the truth. The immortal truth is Egypt. [applause] The immortal truth is Egypt with the grouping of its sons, the unity of its aims, and a solid will that builds life through the will of the makers of life.

Our life is justice and peace. It is justice among the members of the same family, the rich and poor, the strong and weak, the big and small. It is justice that is fair to the oppressed, that supports the afflicted, and that fills the hearts with light and mercy. It is a confident peace whose fruits are reaped by all parts of the Nile Valley. It is a peace that maintains the good relations with our brothers in humanity everywhere, a peace that protects the flourishing civilization, safeguards the heritage of humanity, and enriches this heritage. Justice and peace are a law in our family between the ruler and the ruled. They are a law in our foreign ties and international relations. The strength of the law defends justice in terms of right and duty, and obedience to the law is a fence of protection. The strength of the state defends peace in the present and peace in the future, and national commitment is a shield for this defense.

We must continue along the road with our heads and shoulders held high and our hearts filled with affection and hope. Our road is wide enough for all of us, united, cohesive, tolerant, seeking what is just, and building peace. Our road, brothers, is arduous. Our road is arduous because we do not live in a world of angels. Enemies of justice are maneuvering and scheming. Enemies of peace are tampering and plotting. But this is the struggle of life. It is our fate. This is why the missions of religions have come to arm us with beliefs, principles, and creeds.

Brothers and sisters, our road is long because we are not placing our burdens on the future generations. The present generations' needs and requirements are not an easy matter or within reach. Yet, we are seeking in our struggle to reduce the burdens of the future generations too. We must all deepen the conviction through the awareness of the burdens on our shoulders. Time that is lost in what is not useful or fruitful increases these burdens. Anyone wanting to pass the time in frivolity and foolishness is an enemy to the movement of development and is escaping the battles waged by honest men who are toiling, working, and struggling with honesty and commitment.

Look north and south, east and west, all over our green valley, and you will find in every remote or nearby place a battalion of workers, men and women, who are fulfilling the hope through work. They are exerting their efforts and making sacrifices. They are building houses, factories, schools, and hospitals, and are turning the desert into paradise with fruit. Go to the new cities and inspect the new societies so as to increase your belief that our working people have opted for life.

Rhetoric is not enough anymore to hide empty hearts and minds. Our people are not deceived anymore by claims of heroism in more than one battle, when heroism is costing only words and shouts in a one-sided dialogue. Words have no meaning except for the expression of a positive action in favor of the masses. [applause] Heroism has no place if it is merely a competition of high voices in parades of vanity and in theaters for diverting the masses from their more sublime target, namely construction. [applause]

The significance of the word lies in its truthfulness. Heroism lies in suffering and sacrifices. No matter how much the word tries to cover the truth, the truth is always capable of raising its head over the vituperations and lies. [applause]

Brothers and sisters, hollow words will never create heroism. The heroism of shouts and slogans will eventually disappear before the huge achievements created by the heroism of those who have dedicated themselves to be unknown soldiers in the battles of development and construction everywhere on this land. [applause]

Let us all rise to the arenas of honor and action. Let us deny ourselves for the sake of whatever helps the homeland and the citizens. Let us advance, in all our communities and classes, as a single procession, as one heart, one entity, seeking the Egypt of unity, the Egypt of love, the Egypt of brotherhood, the Egypt of construction and peace. God Almighty is our support and our prop. He is the protector and the haven. He is the compassionate, the merciful. God's peace and blessing be with you.

Tunisia

Ben Ali Discusses Elections, Political Parties

PM2203113489 Paris LIBERATION in French 20 Mar 89 p 26

[Interview with President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali by Stephen Smith in Tunis—date not given]

[Excerpt] Tunis—[Passage omitted] LIBERATION: Everybody in Tunisia hopes that the 2 April elections will be the first free elections in the country's history. How important is the consensus of all parties in supporting you, 16 months after President Bourguiba was deposed?

Ben Ali: The consensus on my candidacy for the forthcoming presidential election is an honor for me and places a great responsibility on me. It probably reflects some recognition of my commitment to democracy, human rights, and a state based on law. It may also express a positive assessment of the efforts I have constantly made to promote a national consensus on the values of tolerance and civic responsibility, without which it is futile to talk about democracy. This consensus is consistent with the National Pact which I invited the country's political forces and factions to join and which was the result of a broad debate and free negotiations among the different partners.

But I am primarily a man of action and I would particularly like to consider the future. From this perspective, I would like to point out, first and foremost, the pledge made by the various political families and independent support committees in Tunisia and in our emigre community to support my action in defending and consolidating our achievements and continuing the renewal process in a spirit of moderation and with a hightened sense of responsibility.

LIBERATION: Is it not dangerous for you and the presidential office to guarantee personally that the 2 April elections will be fair?

Ben Ali: Rest assured that I am shouldering my responsibilities and at the same time assessing the challenge. I have taken various measures to honor my pledges. For instance, I have given clear and precise instructions to the governors, who represent the head of state in the regions, to ensure that they apply the law strictly and guarantee the administration's neutrality and impartiality in the election procedures. Moreover, the governors, like all the administrative apparatus, watch my actions and eventually bring their behavior into line with the head of state.

I have given strict instructions for ensuring the fairness, openness, and smooth running of the elections— from the choice of inspectors and polling station staff to the counting and publication of the election results.

LIBERATION: Do you think that the real opposition in the country is still the Democratic Socialist Movement or is it now the Islamic Tendency Movement?

Ben Ali: I am waiting for the various political groups to put forward their programs and plans before I can tell where the opposition lies. For the time being, the divisions are not sufficiently clear.

The law on the parties and the National Pact define, in the first case, the conditions for exercising legal political activity, and in the latter case, the inviolable values which must be jointly defended by the various political families. Both aim to build a consensus on the political system and on the values, norms, and rules of our democracy.

Moreover, there seems to be a consensus on independent Tunisia's social achievements including women's rights, the code governing the individual's status, and the practice of not using religion for partisan purposes. At a minimum, this consensus is essential for the continuation of the democratization process.

Aside from that, the parties differ in their economic and social plans. I say this without any aggressiveness: I must admit that I cannot find an articulate, coherent, and consistent plan to rival the Constitutional Democratic Rally's [RCD] program. The parties were formed essentially in Tunisia as it was before 7 November—to oppose the system of personal power and the single party. It is as if the 7 November changes caught them by surprise.

LIBERATION: So, the opposition has not yet accepted its role?

Ben Ali: I am not one of those who preach unanimity. I believe in the virtues of the democratic system and hence in the opposition's role. Perhaps the parties need time to adapt, organize, and make proposals. The citizen's fundamental rights are, and will be guaranteed. Freedom of thought and of the press are upheld and defended in the framework of liberal laws that can be improved. Freedom of party activity is recognized and exercised. These are vital preconditions and constitute the essential framework for drawing up alternative or rival plans that will enrich our country. We are waiting until these plans take shape before saying where the opposition lies.

But I would like to take this opportunity to make a small criticism of our opposition parties. The criticisms leveled at the RCD cannot take the place of a program, and the RCD cannot be held responsible for the Destourian Socialist Party's bad practices. In any event, the RCD and the other parties have a crucial responsibility for the success of the democratic plan. They must shoulder this responsibility and set an example to the citizens by showing a spirit of tolerance and civic responsibility.

LIBERATION: Dialogue between the Americans and the PLO will shortly resume here in Tunis. What is your assessment of these continuing contacts?

Ben Ali: First, I am proud that Tunis is the venue for this dialogue. Tunisia will provide an atmosphere of detente and serenity. Second, I would like it to lead rapidly to a just solution to the great injustice which our Palestinian brothers have suffered. They have undoubtedly shown a rare sense of responsibility and moderation. Like the United States, the other permanent members of the UN Security Council bear a special responsibility for peace in the world and for justice, without which there can be no security or peace. I know that they greatly value the PLO delegation's contribution to American-Palestinian dialogue—a contribution that is characterized by a sense of moderation.

I earnestly hope that this dialogue will progress rapidly. Tunisia, for its part, has always been prepared to contribute to this.

Kuwait

Economic, Trade Agreement Signed With Tunisia

LD2003162989 Kuwait KUNA in English 1310 GMT 20 Mar 89

[Text] Kuwait, March 20 (KUNA)—Kuwait and Tunisia Monday concluded an agreement on technical, commercial and economic cooperation. The agreement, which was signed by Kuwaiti Finance Minister Jasim al-Kharafi and Tunisian Ambassador to Kuwait Mohamed al-Ib Kabashi, calls for upping and diversifying trade exchange between the two countries and exempt industrial and agricultural products and natural resources from customs fees and taxes.

The 19-article agreement also calls for organizing exhibitions and economic activities in both countries in order to grant more recognition to their products and exchange economic information and delegations. It also opts to enhance the various production sectors and cooperation in the fields of exchanging expertise and boosting tourism between the two countries. The agreement included an article to form a joint committee to oversee the implementation of the agreement and resolve any difficulties resulting from its interpretation or implementation.

Minister al-Kharafi praised bilateral relations, hoping that the agreement would be a new start for economic cooperation between the two sisterly countries.

Ambassador Kabashi, in a speech on the occasion, expressed his country's appreciation and gratitude for the fruitful efforts exerted by Kuwait supporting the Tunisian economy.

The signing ceremony was attended by Finance Undersecretary 'Abd al-Mohsen al-Hanif, Assistant Undersecretary for Economic Affairs Mustafa al-Shemali, Managing Director and Director General at the Investment Public Authority Dr Fahd al-Rashid and other officials.

Oil Minister, Thai Counterpart Hold Talks

LD2103191889 Kuwait KUNA in English 1644 GMT 21 Mar 89

[Text] Kuwait, March 21 (KUNA)—Thai state minister attached to the prime minister's office, Kon Thappharangsi conferred here tonight with Oil Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifa al-Athbi. Official oil sources told KUNA that the discussions tackled Thailand's request for Kuwaiti oil byproducts. They added that the two sides further discussed means of expanding the Thai-Kuwaiti cooperation in various oil spheres. Thappharangsi is responsible for his country's oil and energy affairs.

Qatar

Defense Minister Meets French Air Force Chief

JN2103165989 Manama WAKH in English 1600 GMT 21 Mar 89

[Text] Doha, March 21 (GNA)—Qatari Heir Apparent and Defence Minister Shaykh Hamad ibn Khalifah Al Thani received here this morning the Chief of Staff of the French Air Force, Maj. Gen. A. Lersche. They had a general review of bilateral relations in addition to a number of topics of mutual interest. The meeting was attended by the Assistant Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Qatari Armed Forces, Colonel Shaykh 'Abdallah ibn Khalifah Al Thani and the Chief of Staff of the Armed Force, (Group Captain) Colonel Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Abdallah Al Thani. Maj. Gen. Lersche is currently on a visit to Qatar.

Saudi Arabia

Source Denies Commissions Paid in UK Arms Deal

LD2103002589 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2145 GMT 20 Mar 89

[Text] Riyadh, 20 Mar (SPA)—Replying to what the London based weekly THE OBSERVER published in its issue yesterday on 19 March in an article by Adam Raphael, on the false claims that Britain has offered a commission to the Saudis to win the biggest military deal in history, and other accusations in the article, a responsible source told SPA today that "everything Adam Raphael included in his article published in the London based OBSERVER is totally untrue—in totality and in details."

The source added: "Competent government circles in Britian are fully aware that the agreement regarding the British arms deal with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was concluded between the two governments in an official and publicized manner and without the involvement of any agents and middlemen, a matter which prompts us to affirm the kingdom's categorical denial of the existence of any commissions in this deal or in other similar deals."

The source said: "Despite our prior knowledge of the intentions of the author and his motives and the circles which stand behind the campaign of fabricated defamation and disinformation, and although we realize the real aims which lay behind this article, we would like to warn against the consequences of these serious accusations, which are feeble and do not rest on any evidence. We will, should the publication of such erroneous information recur, take orderly and judicial measures to set things right."

The British FINANCIAL TIMES today quoted the British Defense Ministry's denial of having paid commissions in the arms deal, alluding that the agreement was on a purely governmental basis to avoid the agents. The paper also quoted the British Aerospace Corporation as saying that the Saudi deal was designed basically to avoid the middlemen.

Council of Ministers Briefed on ICO Meeting

LD2003200189 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1723 GMT 20 Mar 89

[Text] Riyadh, 20 Mar (SPA)—King Fahd bin 'Abd al-'Aziz al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, chaired the Council of Ministers' meeting this afternoon at Al-Yamamah Palace in Riyadh.

After the meeting, Information Minister 'Ali al-Sh'ir told SPA: Following a quick review of the most significant topics relating to the current events on the Arab and Islamic scenes, the council, after a graceful directive from the king, listened to a report by His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister, on the outcome of the 18th sesion of the Islamic Foreign Ministers conference held in Riyadh.

The custodian of the two holy mosques expressed his deep satisfaction at the positive results achieved, thanks to God and thanks to sincere intentions, which are at the level of the Islamic nation's aspirations. He hailed the resolutions announced by the conference at the conclusion of its proceedings that alluded to the success accomplished by the conference in regard to the Palestinian and Afghan questions. The custodian of the two holy mosques renewed the congratulations of the kingdom, government, and people to the Afghan Islamic state for winning its seat at the Islamic Conference Organization and stressed the kingdom's keen interest in continuing its support to the struggling Afghan people for their independence and their right to self-determination.

PDRY

Al-Siyayli Denies Contacts With 'Ali Nasir

PM2203112089 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 21 Mar 89 pp 1-2

[Zaki Musa report: "Aden Interior Minister Confirms to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: No Contacts with 'Ali Nasir, No Foreign Pressure for Reconciliation"]

[Text] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—PDRY Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Brigadier General Salih Munassir al-Siyayli denied the existence of contacts between the Aden government and former President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad and his supporters outside the PDRY. In an exclusive statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Brig Gen al-Siyayli described reports of such contacts as baseless and "mere rumors circulated by that group in an attempt to reassert their existence and importance."

Brig Gen al-Siyayli, who spoke with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT by telephone yesterday, ruled out any possibility of an early reconciliation between the PDRY regime and former President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, declaring that "there will be no reconciliation with the elements that have chosen the military solution instead of democratic dialogue."

It is worth mentioning that over the past 2 weeks optimism about reconciliation has prevailed in circles concerned with Yemeni developments, following the amnesty decisions affecting a number of senior officials from the era of former President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad and the closure of the anti-Aden regime radio station run by the former president's supporters. On this Brig Gen al-Siyayli informed AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that "the move to release more than 30 detainees a few days ago was part of the state's policy of finding a solution to the aftermath the 13 January 1986 incidents. It was taken after a reappraisal of numerous matters."

The PDRY official stressed that the amnesty and release decisions were unrelated to any chances of a reconciliation. He said that "the release was not made in response to a conciliatory atmosphere or foreign pressure, as reported." However, Brig Gen al-Siyayli added that the regime of the southern part [of Yemen] "welcomes the return of all those who left the country as a result of those painful incidents. Returnees, except for those who have been sentenced, will be dealt with according to the recent amnesty decision which covers those who return not as fugitives but, rather, on the basis of their right to live, work, enjoy security, and recover their property."

Brig Gen al-Siyayli added that "all those who have returned to the country have now received their allocations which were frozen during the period following the January 1986 incidents."

Brig Gen al-Siyayli told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that there "were no grounds for the closure of the radio station run from Sanaa by former President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad's supporters.

Brig al-Siyayli concluded his statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT by emphasizing that "relations between the two parts of Yemen are excellent," and that the two sides are "making great efforts to develop relations." He pointed out that the joint committees' meetings are continuing. He said that such meetings "will soon produce new agreements in various fields which will certainly constitute strong bases and foundations for the establishment of a united state."

It is known that the amnesty and release decisions taken by the Aden government nearly 2 weeks ago have affected a number of senior officials from the era of former President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad. They include Anis Hasan Yahya, a former Political Bureau member now resident in Bulgaria, and three ministers: Muhammad 'Abd al-Qawi, former information minister; Hasan al-Salami, former education minister; and 'Abd al-Qadir Bajamal, former energy and mineral resources minister. This, in addition to two former Central Committee members, namely, Muhammad Nasir Jabir, former deputy interior minister; and 'Abdallah Nasir Rashid. It has also been reported that the amnesty affects a number of military officials, including Husayn Bin Salamah.

Because the decisions were followed by the closure of the anti-Aden regime radio station, and in view of the reports of meetings between Anis Hasan Yahya and Muhammad 'Abduh Shatfah, ambassador to Damascus, some circles expect an imminent reconciliation between the Aden regime and former President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad and his followers.

Soviet Mediation Denied

JN2003164289 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 19 Mar 89 p 1

["Exclusive"]

[Text] An informed Yemeni source denied holding any contacts with any party whatsoever, including the Soviet Union, to effect an "alleged" reconciliation between followers of 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, former chairman of the southern part of Yemen, and the current leadership in Aden.

Speaking to AL-SIYASAH, the southern Yemeni source thus rebutted the reports which said more than one mediation session had been held, including one reportedly with the Soviet Union. The source explained that the release of 34 of those indicted for the sanguinous 13 January 1986 incidents only took place as part of the principle of tolerance between the state and its citizens so they can participate in the construction process as citizens.

Referring to the halt in transmission of 'Ali Nasir's radio, which used to broadcast from Sanaa, the source said this positive step by the northern part will contribute to the provision of an appropriate atmosphere to render successful the meetings of the higher Yemeni council. Sanaa recently agreed to convene this council in Aden at a date in the near future. The date is currently being discussed.

The sources recalled that the general amnesty decision pardoning all citizens who fled abroad had been issued and announced more than a year ago. This decision applies to everyone except those on whom sentences were passed. The AL-SIYASAH sources expected other positive steps concerning relations between the two parts of Yemen, particularly on the level of unifying the federations, the professional trade unions, and the popular unions and establishing joint economic and investment projects between the two parts in the forthcoming phase.

Yemen Arab Republic

PDRY's Nu'man, Delegation Arrive for Talks

JN2103162189 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 21 Mar 89

[Text] Brother Dr Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, prime minister of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen [PDRY], arrived in Sanaa this morning heading the PDRY side to the joint committee meetings.

Leading the group of those who were there to receive him were Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, prime minister, and Standing Committee member; Brother Dr'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and Standing Committee member; Dr Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar, deputy prime minister, development minister, chairman of the Central Planning Organ, and Standing Committee member; a number of cabinet ministers; Standing Committee members; and a number of civic and military officials.

At the airport, Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani hugged his brother, Dr Yasin Sa'id Nu'man warmly. Then, Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani shook hands with the members of the PDRY delegation, while Dr Yasin Sa'id Nu'man shook hands with the senior officials who were there to welcome him.

Afterward, the prime minister accompanied his brother, Dr Yasin Sa'id Nu'man to the VIP lounge for a short rest.

In a statement to SABA' news agency, Brother Dr Yasin Sa'id Nu'man said: I would like to begin my statement by expressing my deep thanks and appreciation for the purely fraternal reception and the great, friendly, and generous hospitality accorded to me and to the delegation members upon our arrival at Sanaa International Airport. It is a great pleasure that we feel at these pleasant moments while we are in the midst of our brothers in the beautiful city of Sanaa, the historic capital of the homeland.

Nu'man added: I would like to take this opportunity and convey our honest fraternal greetings and best wishes through you and through your radio, television, and newspapers to you, the people who work in the news media, thus shouldering a great responsibility regarding the performance of the great national tasks that we are all undertaking as our noble cause. I would also like to take this occasion to address our greetings to our people in the northern part of our homeland and to its political leaders, foremost among whom is Brother President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

With this visit, which we are beginning today, we are renewing our contacts with the brother officials in Sanaa within the framework of the first session of the Joint Ministerial Committee for 1989. We hope we will proceed toward holding future meetings between the various unity organizations and committees which were launched years ago to help reunify Yemen. Through them a number of national gains on the political, economic, and social levels were realized in the interests of our people. The mutual trust between the leaderships of the two parts of the homeland, the good faith in unity endeavors, the credibility of these endeavors, and the pursuit of a democratic dialogue in a peaceful atmosphere were bolstered.

Nu'man went on to say: This meeting is an extension of the meetings held by the brothers and officials in the two parts of the Yemeni homeland with the aim of holding consultations and bringing about mutual coordination with the objective of preserving all the national gains accomplished in the higher interests of our people.

In his statement, Nu'man said: Through the discussion of issues and topics on the agenda of this session of the Joint Ministerial Committee of the two parts of the homeland, we will devote all our attention to ways and means to develop our joint unity endeavors to the level dictated by the pressing national tasks and issues facing our people and also to that necessitated by the Arab and international political and economic situation and events, not to mention the successive and rapid regional and international variables confronting us which concern the future of our fateful issue. We view the committee's meetings here in Sanaa as an extension of our previous endeavors, including the results of the 4 May 1988 meeting, especially considering that the secretariat of the Yemeni Council completed all preparations and created a suitable climate for this session through its recent Aden meeting. The meetings of this session will be chaired by me and Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani.

The PDRY prime minister added: We have the determination and resolve to walk hand in hand with our brother officials in the northern part of the homeland to redouble the efforts in a selfless and patriotic spirit embodying the unity of the Yemeni entity in a democratic and unionist spirit and building on the base of the national gains, which we have accomplished. Through this resolve, determination, and persistent endeavors, there is no doubt that we will be able to overcome all the problems, obstacles, barriers, and difficulties inherited from the years of division, fragmentation, backwardness, and ignorance.

Nu'man went on to say: We are fully confident that our common fraternal efforts in rendering a success the works of this session of the Joint Ministerial Committee will also enable us to come up with positive results that will contribute to enhancing our unity steps, which the masses of all of our Yemeni people aspire to see realized. They hope and are optimistic that we will realize the sublime objective of the Yemeni revolution. Consequently, this committee's meetings will contribute to fine preparations and the creation of opportune circumstances for the next session of the Higher Yemeni Council, which will discuss subsequent operative unity steps. Hence, our visit to the northern part of the homeland and our successful meetings with the brothers will achieve their objective.

Brother Dr Yasin Sa'id Nu'man is accompanied by Brother Salih Abu Bakr ibn Husaynun, Central Committee member of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP], deputy prime minister, and minister of energy and minerals; Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali, YSP Central Committee member and foreign minister; Rashid Muhammad Thabit, YSP Central Committee member and minister of state for union affairs; Muhammad Ahmad Jarhum, YSP Central Committee member and minister of culture and information; Salih 'Abdallah Muthanna, transport minister; Salim Abu Bakr, education minister; Mutahhar Mus'id Muslih, YSP Central Committee member and deputy interior minister; Muhammad ibn Rab'iah, director of the prime minister's office; Dr Ja'far Hamid, deputy planning minister; and a number of officials.

Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, prime minister and Standing Committee member, hosted a lunch in honor of his brother, Dr Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, YSP Political Bureau member and prime minister of the southern part of the homeland. The luncheon was attended by brothers Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and Standing Committee member; Dr Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar, deputy prime minister, development minister, chairman of the Central Planning Organ, and Standing Committee member; Colonel 'Abdallah Husayn al-Bashiri, chief of staff and Standing Committee member; the members of the two sides to the Joint Ministerial Committee; a number of cabinet ministers and Standing Committee members; and a number of civic and military officials.

Joint Committee Holds Session

JN2103165189 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 21 Mar 89

[Excerpt] The first session of the joint ministerial committee of the two parts of the homeland for 1989 began at the Prime Ministry today under brothers 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, Yemeni Arab Republic [YAR] prime minister and Standing Committee member; and Dr Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, member of the Political Bureau and prime minister in the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen [PDRY].

At the beginning of the session, Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani welcomed his brother, Yasin Sa'id Nu'man and the members of the southern part's side to the ministerial committee in Sanaa, the capital of the unity state. He said: Today, the first session of joint ministerial committee began. Brothers, in front of us we have a report from the committee's secretariat. The report contains actions taken by the joint committee and another report on the action of the joint institutions. He said that this session will produce positive results that will serve the unity action.

For his part, Dr Yasin Sa'id Nu'man delivered a speech in which he expressed his thanks and those of the PRDY's side to the joint ministerial committee for the brotherly reception and the good preparations for the session. He said: We are very happy because Sanaa, the capital of the unity state, is hosting this important session of our committee, which has great duties to carry out. He expressed his confidence that the everyone's efforts to carry out their duties in this session will succeed in achieving the noble goals of our Yemeni people in unity.

Then the ministerial committee reviewed the report submitted by the Higher Yemeni Council to the first session of the joint ministerial committee for 1989. The report says that as a result of reviewing the outcome of the third session of the joint ministerial committee in Sanaa 10-14 December 1985, as well as the session's positive resolutions and recommendations pretaining to unity action between the two parts, we can say that more coordination and cooperation in various areas would have been achieved if the 13 January events in the southern part of the homeland in 1986 had not compelled the leaders of the two parts to concentrate their efforts on dealing with the results of these events. It also says that these efforts were very important and had a positive national effect in containing that bloody event in the southern part of the homeland as a result of their eagerness to promote security and stability and adopt positive and brotherly positions, which have strengthened the unity structure and the bridges of confidence and promoted the unity steps through peaceful and democratic ways. [passage omitted]

Economy Minister Leaves for Ethiopia, Jordan

JN2103181289 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 Mar 89

[Text] Brother Dr 'Abd al-Wahhab Mahmud, minister of economy, supply, and trade, left for Addis Ababa today heading our country's delegation to the third session of the Yemeni-Ethiopian joint committee, which will hold its meetings in the Ethiopian capital 21-24 March.

In a statement to SABA', he said that following the meetings of the Yemeni-Ethiopian joint committee, he will leave for the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to attend the meetings of the council of governors of the investment fund, which will be held in Amman on 26 March, explaining that during his stay in Amman he will hold meetings with a number of ministers and Arab financial officials. The delegation comprises a number of officials from the Ministry of Economy, Supply, and Trade; the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; The Ministry of Youths and Sports; supply institutions; and the general union of the Chambers of Commerce.

Economic, Science Agreement Signed With Poland

JN2003204489 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 20 Mar 89

[Text] Iraq and Poland signed a long-term agreement for economic, scientific, and technical cooperation today. They also signed a memorandum of understanding between the two friendly countries. The agreement and the memorandum were signed for Iraq by Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, and for Poland by Mieczyslaw Rakowski, chairman of the Polish Council of Ministers.

The agreement, which takes effect today for 5 years, and is renewable, includes eight clauses related to expanding and promoting trade exchange, encouraging and facilitating trade contracts between the two countries' institutions, and concentrating on long-term contracts. Moreover, Polish institutions will import commodities, goods, and other materials from Iraq at ratios to be agreed annually.

According to the agreement, Iraq will supply Poland with with crude oil starting next year and until the end of 1995. The Polish side pledged to give Iraq credit facilities with sums to be agreed upon annually to cover the cost of Polish exports to Iraq. Moreover, Polish institutions and companies will implement a number of projects in Iraq during the period from 1990 to 1995.

Under the agreement, Iraq and Poland have undertaken to encourage participation in specialized permanent and temporary international exhibitions and trade centers set up in both countries. All facilities required for the importation of the goods and materials needed to set up these exhibitions will be made in accordance with the laws and regulations observed in the two countries.

The agreement also calls for industrial cooperation serving the two countries in setting up industrial ventures in the engineering, chemical, construction, and mining industries; using advanced technologies in this regard; exchanging expertise and know-how; securing the transfer of advance technological methods; granting training fellowships in the educational and vocational institutions; and marketing industrial products.

In the planning, scientific, and technical sphere, the two sides stressed the need to develop bilateral cooperation by means of exchanging expertise in the field of development planning, preparing planning cadres, facilitating the transfer of advance technology to Iraq, conducting joint scientific and technical studies and research, organizing training courses, and encouraging contacts between the competent institutions in the scientific and technical spheres.

The two sides stated that the current Iraqi-Polish joint committee for economic, trade, scientific, and technical cooperation should continue its work and carry out its tasks in development and economic cooperation. In addition, it should study ways and means to expand and promote bilateral relations in the economic, trade, industrial, financial, scientific, and technical spheres; make proposals on promoting this cooperation; and review and follow up the agreements.

According to the agreement, Iraq and Poland agreed to hold annual meetings of the Iraqi-Polish joint committee in Baghdad and Warsaw alternately, or when required, and on the ministerial level.

In today's memorandum of understanding, Iraq and Poland agreed to expand cooperation in international affairs, particularly at the United Nations and other organizations. They also agreed to develop economic, scientific, and technical cooperation in accordance with the principles of the cooperation agreement.

The memorandum of understanding also stipulated that the concerned ministries should study the possiblity of talks to conclude an agreement on reciprocal recognition of scientific degrees and university certificates as well as an agreement preventing double taxation. The two sides stressed the desire to strengthen the exisiting cordial relations that are based on the principles of the UN Charter and international law. They also expressed the desire to add the elements of continuity and mutual benefit.

In a speech after signing the agreement and the memorandum of understanding, Ramadan expressed his profound satisfaction with the results they had achieved in outlining future cooperation between Iraq and Poland. He added that Iraq will do its best to implement the commitments cited in the agreement in a spirit of great optimism.

The Polish prime minister praised the hospitality and positive atmosphere that characterized his talks with Iraqi officials, saying that this positive atmosphere helped achieve these results, which will increase the scope of cooperation in every field.

The signing of the agreement and the memorandum of understanding was attended Iraq's behalf by Samal Majid Faraj, minister of planning; Husayn Kamil, minister of industry and military industrialization; and the under secretaries of the ministries of Foreign Affairs, Industry and Military Industrialization, and Transport and Communications; the head of the first international desk at the Foreign Ministry; and the Iraqi ambassador in Warsaw. It was attended on behalf of Poland by the under secretaries of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations, and the Ministry of Finance; the under secretary of the Office of the Council of Ministers; and the Polish ambassador in Baghdad.

Joint Statement on Agreement

JN2003194589 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1712 GMT 20 Mar 89

["Text" of Iraqi-Polish news statement issued on 20 March following an official visit by Mieczyslaw Rakowski, chairman of the Polish Council of Ministers]

[Text] At the invitation of Taha Yasin Ramadan, first deputy prime minister, Mieczyslaw Rakowski paid an official visit to Iraq 17-20 March 1989. The chairman of the Polish Council of Ministers met with Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic of Iraq, and conveyed to him the greetings of the chairman of the Polish Council of State and his best wishes of personal happiness for him and wishes of progress and prosperity for the friendly Iraqi people. For his part, Saddam Husayn requested that his warm greetings be conveyed to General Wojciech Jaruzelski, chairman of the Polish Council of State, and his good wishes of health and happiness for him and prosperity and progress for the friendly Polish people.

Rakowski held talks with Taha Yasin Ramadan and met with Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and a number of Iraqi Government officials. Rakowski also attended a meeting with a group of Polish citizens working in Iraq. The Iraqi-Polish talks were held in an atmosphere of friendship and joint understanding. Rakowski and Taha Yasin Ramadan noted with satisfaction that relations between the People's Republic of Poland and the Republic of Iraq are developing successfully on the basis of each party's respect for the other's interests, on old friendship, and on fruitful mutual cooperation in every area. The two sides expressed their common desire to achieve further promotion in these relations.

Each party briefed the other on programs of social and economic development in its country. They exchanged views on important international and domestic issues. The two sides said they valued highly their continued dialogue and cooperation in political matters in addition to their economic, scientific, and cultural cooperation.

The two sides analyzed the current situation and the possibility of expanding economic and trade cooperation. They stressed the need for utmost exploitation of the potential in this field as well as a more comprehensive implementation of the agreements concluded between the two countries. The two sides exchanged views on the most important international and regional issues. They expressed their conviction that the positive changes in international relations have created circumstances that will help effect complete disarmament, reduction of tensions, and promotion of international cooperation. These changes have also contributed to increasing confidence in international relations and consolidating independence and sovereignty.

The two sides expressed appreciation for the role being played by the United Nations in resolving regional conflicts. Rakowski briefed the Iraqi side on the main elements of Polish foreign policy, noting Poland's activities in international forums. He also pointed to Poland's initiatives, particularly the plan on reducing armaments and increasing security in Central Europe. The Iraqis briefed the Polish representatives on the latest developments in the Arab world, including the establishment of the Arab Cooperation Council. This council will enhance economic cooperation among its members, lead to their economic integration, and allow for the admission of other Arab states. The Polish side welcomed this as a positive step that will enhance peace and stability in the region.

The Polish representatives voiced satisfaction with the cease-fire between Iraq and Iran. The two sides affirmed their stands on the full implementation of UN Security Council Resolution No 598 issued on 20 July 1987 as the basis of a just and comprehensive settlement of the Iraqi-Iranian conflict and also as a basis for achieving a lasting peace in the region. The two sides expressed high praise for UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar's efforts in this regard.

The Iraqis explained their position on the freedom of navigation for all ships in both the Arabian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz, pointing to the need for clearing the Shatt al-'Arab as soon as possible. The two sides emphasized their support for the principle of peaceful solutions to all regional conflicts and international disputes based on the UN Charter, international law, and the principle of noninterference in other states' domestic affairs.

The two sides paid much attention to the Middle East conflict and urged that practical steps be taken to begin the peace process through an international conference under UN auspices. They also voiced their support for the Palestinian people's legitimate, inalienable rights and for their right to self-determination as set out in the Palestine National Council's declaration issued in Algiers on 15 November 1988 regarding the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. Both sides reaffirmed their support for the PLO and expressed their solidarity with the Palestinian people's struggle in the occupied territories to obtain their legitimate rights.

The two sides expressed concern over the continuation of the Lebanese crisis. They stated their conviction that this crisis can only be resolved by nonviolence, national accord, and political dialogue among the warring factions. They also stressed the need to safeguard Lebanon's unity and sovereignty without outside interference.

Both sides acknowledged the growing role being played by the Nonaligned Movement and its constructive contribution to world peace and the reduction of tension, which still exists in the world to the detriment of international relations. The two sides expressed their confidence that the visit paid to the Republic of Iraq by the chairman of the Polish Council of Ministers has opened a new phase in the relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries. During the visit, a long-term agreement for economic, scientific, and technical cooperation was signed, along with a memorandum of understanding.

Rakowski voiced his profound thanks and gratitude for the hospitality and warm reception accorded to him in Iraq. He conveyed an invitation from Wojciech Jaruzelski, chairman of the Council of State, to President Saddam Husayn to pay an official visit to Poland. He also extended an invitation to Taha Yasin Ramadan, first deputy prime minister, to visit Poland. The two invitations were accpted with satisfaction.

Joint Committee With Lebanon Meets 21 Mar

JN2103115089 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1056 GMT 21 Mar 89

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Mar (INA)—The meetings of the Iraqi-Lebanese joint committee began here today. Finance Minister Hikmat 'Umar Mukhaylif headed the Iraqi delegation to the meetings, while Staff Brigadier General 'Isam Abu Jamrah, deputy prime minister, minister of economy and trade, and minister of industry and oil, led the Lebanese side.

The committee discussed promoting trade and economic relations and assessed the progress of cooperation between the two fraternal countries. It also discussed the possibility of reopening the Lebanese trade center and holding a Lebanese trade week in Baghdad.

The Iraqi delegation is composed of representatives from the ministries of trade, finance, transport and communications, and industry and military industrialization, in addition to representatives from the Iraqi Central Bank and the Al-Rafidayn Bank. The Lebanese side includes representatives from the unions of the chambers of commerce and industry, and the trade and industrial sectors.

Reaction to Military Intelligence Report on PLO

Shamir: Accounts 'a Lie'

TA2103185489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 21 Mar 89

[Report by Jack Katzenell on joint news conference by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres upon the conclusion of the Prime Minister's Conference on Jewish Solidarity With Israel on 21 March in Jerusalem—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Katzenell] The prime minister was asked about the media reports that military intelligence told the cabinet this week that Israel will have no choice but to talk to the PLO. Was the prime minister saying that the reports were inaccurate or that they were not true at all?

[Shamir] All was a lie, all included in this information was a lie.

[Katzenell] Vice Premier Peres was asked for his version. Did the intelligence report exist? he was asked.

[Peres] Well, I consider myself an intelligent person and I have views of my own. I think that the solution to the conflict with the Palestinians must be a political one. I do not need any urge from anybody else to reach this conclusion.

[Katzenell] When pressed for a less evasive answer, Peres simply dismissed the question.

[Peres] Are we under investigation? [passage omitted]

Shamir Remarks 'Inaccurate'

TA2203065689 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 22 Mar 89

[Excerpts] Inner Cabinet ministers insist that the intelligence report submitted to them includes a recommendation for launching talks with the PLO. The ministers expressed their amazement at the prime minister for saying he knows nothing at all about such a report. Our political correspondent Natan Gutman reports:

[Passage covered] Senior ministers last night expressed their amazement at Shamir's remarks that he knows nothing about the intelligence report. They said that Shamir's remarks at the Conference on Jewish Solidarity are simply inaccurate. They noted that they cannot understand why he said them. [passage omitted]

Adviser: Report Not Accurate

TA2103202989 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 21 Mar 89

[Text] The defense minister's media adviser said a short while ago that the situation assessment of the Intelligence Branch was recently presented to the political echelons, as has been done every year. The intelligence assessment contains no recommendations as to the Israeli Government's political activities. Therefore, recent media reports do not reflect the contents of the intelligence assessment in question.

Arens Received 'No Such Report'

TA2203114389 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 22 Mar 89

[Excerpts] I have not received any intelligence report on the need for negotiations with the PLO, said Foreign Minister Moshe Arens today, regarding the controversy surrounding that report.

[Begin recording] [Arens] I received no such report. I saw no such report.

[Political correspondent Natan Gutman] Are the reports that the Intelligence Branch submitted such a document on the intifadah [uprising] and the ways to resolve it erroneous?

[Arens] No such report has reached me.

[Gutman] So how can you explain the fact that some Inner Cabinet ministers maintain that such a report was indeed submitted?

[Arens] I cannot explain it. I cannot say this, because I never saw such a report.

[Gutman] The same sources argue that you happened to be out of the country during the session in which the report was submitted.

[Arens] It would surprise me very much if such a report exists and yet has never been submitted to the foreign minister. At any rate, I never got it. [end recording]

Knesset Member [MK] Yosi Sarid, who is a member of the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, contended that the prime minister lied yesterday when he denied that an Intelligence Branch report on the PLO existed. The Prime Minister's Office reacted to this by saying that Shamir never denied that such a report exists; he merely denied the reports on its content. [passage omitted]

Avi Pazner, the prime minister's media adviser, said in reaction that had MK Sarid bothered to read what the prime minister actually said at the news conference yesterday, he would have seen for himself that Mr Shamir did not address the Intelligence Branch's assessment but only firmly denied the reports on its content. These reports, said Pazner, were tendentious, and everything was taken out of context.

Meanwhile, Likud MK Mikha'el Eytan asked who permitted Sarid to quote from the Intelligence Branch report, which is supposed to be classified. He accused Finance Minister Shim'on Peres' associates of leaking the Intelligence Branch report. The latter have firmly denied this argument, expressing their disgust with what they called a baseless and false accusation.

Industry and Trade Minister Ari'el Sharon also commented on the report this morning, saying that it does not exist. This is an internal political attempt to torpedo the prime minister's efforts to garner the support of world Jewish leaders.

Arens on Baker Meeting; Meets Danish Minister

TA2203130489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 22 Mar 89

[Text] Danish Foreign Minister Uffe Ellemann-Jensen met his Israeli counterpart Moshe Arens and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir this morning. Our correspondent Ze'ev Kohen was at the Foreign Ministry this morning; he asked Foreign Minister Arens about U.S. Secretary of State Baker's statements yesterday reiterating the necessity of direct negotiations between Israel and the PLO.

[Begin recording] [Arens] I sat with Mr Baker for a long time. Actually, we discussed matters twice, once in a private talk and another time during my meeting with President Bush, which Baker attended. We reached a general understanding on our ideas on furthering the peace process: first of all, on the necessity of holding direct negotiations and not an international conference; and second, on our desire and attempts to find interlocutors among Palestinian residents of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip.

[Kohen] Arens said that, in addition to representatives of the Arab states who are indispensable in formulating a peace settlement and setting up direct negotiations, it is important to negotiate with authentic representatives of the Palestinians in the territories, people who live in the area. Arens said that if we manage to talk to them there is a good chance of achieving an accord. Arens reiterated that he had neither received nor seen a report by the Intelligence Branch that recommends commencing a dialogue with the PLO. He said that he would be very surprised if such a report exists.

The Danish foreign minister also addressed the Palestinian issue.

[Ellemann-Jensen—in English] I am not talking about fishing rights; we are talking about the existence of your state, and we understand the seriousness of that situation. On the other hand, as we see the situation, there have been some significant moves on the side of the PLO.

[Kohen] The Danish foreign minister continued: Our advice to Israel, which is our friend, is to find some way to examine the degree of the PLO's commitment. If you believe that the PLO is lying, why not make sure? You Israelis are the only ones who can do this. This is our advice. But I would like to stress that Israel must make all its decisions on its own, since its very survival is at stake, he added. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1100 GMT on 22 March reports that Prime Minister Yitzhaq met with the Danish foreign minister this morning. Shamir's bureau reported that "that the meeting was friendly. The topic of discussion was the Middle East situation. Mr Shamir said that he intends to continue meeting notables from Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip and that that he will expand these important contacts."]

Shamir on Situation in Territories, U.S. Visit

JN2103161189 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1030 GMT 21 Mar 89

[Interview with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Yehudit Budit, radio correspondent for political affairs; questions in Arabic; answers in Hebrew with superimposed Arabic translation; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Shamir] I do not support the continuation of the current situation, not because I fear a worse situation but because it lacks the peace factor. We want peace and are looking forward to peace. The achievement of peace is the major objective of our foreign policy. We are ready to exert our utmost to achieve peace.

[Budit] It has been reported recently that you met with Palestinian leaders. You refused to identify those leaders out of fear that their lives will be in danger as a result of this. How is it possible then to hold negotiations with them?

[Shamir] The meetings took place just to become acquainted with impressions and to exchange opinions. Negotiations cannot continue secretly once they start. The larger part of these negotiations must be public.

[Budit] There is a conviction that no political settlement can be reached without the PLO's participation. Many voices in Israel are calling for direct negotiations with the PLO even without the Likud's approval. What is your opinion?

[Shamir] The government alone negotiates, and it has to make the decision on this matter. No decision can be made in the present government in Israel without the approval of the two major blocs. Israel is known in the world as a democratic country. Contrary to the Arab countries, an opinion opposing the officials' stand can be expressed. However, there is an exaggeration in this expression.

[Budit] How do you intend to pacify the situation in the territories? Do you support the departure of the Israel Defense Force [IDF] from the centers of the cities?

[Shamir] The withdrawal of the IDF can be a part of an agreement that can be signed one day with the Arab citizens.

[Budit] You will meet with the new U.S. Administration next month. In light of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's recent statements, do you expect difficult talks there?

[Shamir] I do not expect the talks to be difficult. However, there is no doubt that they will be serious and deep rooted. We will try to reach through these talks a joint stand with the U.S. Administration.

[Budit] You said that you will present new ideas to resolve the Middle East problem. Would you give us an idea on the general outlines of these ideas?

[Shamir] Yes, I will present ideas. Some of these ideas have not been presented previously. But, I will do this during, and not before, my talks in Washington.

[Budit] Why do you refuse to hold a political discussion at the Council of Ministers before you leave for Washington? What is your comment on some ministers' announcement on their political plans?

[Shamir] I will hold political discussions here, but their framework has not been defined yet. However, some issues must be kept within a very narrow framework before my arrival in Washington. I believe some ministers' different remarks on these issues are useless.

[Budit] My last question. A conference on world Jewish solidarity with Israel is being held in Jerusalem now. What do you expect from this conference?

[Shamir] This solidarity conference came to express the Jewish people's solidarity with the State of Israel. I can say on the first day of the conference that it is carrying out its mission. Many prominent Jewish leaders from various parts of the world are meeting here. We feel their solidarity with the fate of the State of Israel and its stands.

USSR's Gerasimov Regrets Israeli 'Immobility'

TA2203184489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1730 GMT 22 Mar 89

[Text] Gennadiy Gerasimov, Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman, says there has been a change in the position of the new U.S. Administration regarding Israel and the PLO. Gerasimov also expressed the Soviet Union's regret over the immobility in Israel's policy, which blocks the efforts for solving the conflict. Gennadiy Gerasimov answered questions of our correspondent in Paris, Gid'on Kouts:

[Begin Kouts recording] Gerasimov said there has been a change in the new U.S. Administration's position toward Israel and the PLO, just as there has been an undeniable change in the PLO's position. Gerasimov said the Soviet Union regrets the immobility of Yitzhaq Shamir and of other Israeli leaders, something that blocks the efforts toward solving the Middle East conflict. The Soviet Union is convinced that an international peace conference is the best way to solve the conflict and that preparations to begin such a conference should be made as soon as possible. At the same time, the Soviet Union will welcome any fresh ideas on how such preparations could be started.

When asked about coordination between the superpowers regarding the Middle East conflict, Gerasimov said that in the meeting between Shevardnadze and Baker in Vienna early this month, the two foreign ministers decided to continue discussing the issue in their next meeting in Moscow scheduled for early April. The Middle East is included in the discussions of the No 3 experts team. According to the Soviet spokesman, however, the number does not necessarily indicate the importance the Soviets attribute to this issue.

Answering a question on Syria's policy in Lebanon and its policy toward the PLO, Gerasimov said that the Soviet Union wants the Arabs, including the PLO, to reach an agreement between themselves, because this divisiveness is what enables Israel to disregard international public opinion. [end recording]

Leaders Address Jewish Solidarity Conference

Shamir Urges Unity

TA2103153489 Jerusalem GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE in English 21 Mar 89

[Report by GPO Correspondent Yehuda Ya'akov]

[Excerpt] Declaring that "we know from experience that there are no quick fixes" in promoting peace, Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir told some 1,500 participants in the Prime Minister's Conference on Jewish Solidarity with Israel this morning that the establishment of a Palestinian state would work to the detriment of the Middle East peace process.

"The PLO has come to the international stage and is saying, in effect: If you want peace, give us a Palestinian state. And to back its demand, it is inciting violence and practising terror. A PLO state would not advance peace," the prime minister told applauding guests from among world Jewry at Jerusalem's Binyene Ha'ooma. "It would be the opposite of peace. It could only produce the peace of the cemetery.

"It would be a tragedy if responsible governments were to support such a demand, and it would be fatal for Israel to submit to what, in effect, is an ultimatum," Prime Minister Shamir added. "Submitting to violence is bound to trigger even more violence. Such a cycle could end in catastrophe."

Speaking to a clearly supportive audience, the prime minister appealed for unity among the Jewish people as a means to promote peace. Stating that "we learn from history that when we are divided we are vulnerable, and when we are united we are unbeatable and unbreakable," he said that "we believe that there are chances of moving the Israel-Arab peace process forward, but to do so we must dispel the perception abroad that the Jewish people is divided; that there is a weakening of the bonds between Israel and the Jewish diaspora; that Israel's image has been tarnished; and that Israel's policies are being questioned, even by Jews."

Referring to the same issue, Prime Minister Shamir said that "one of our first problems is the scheme of some of our most dangerous adversaries to divide and weaken the Jewish people and distance it from Israel. This is not conjecture; it is based on the best intelligence. This campaign is being waged at a time when the Arab world is more united in purpose and action against Israel. It also coincides with a legitimate debate within our ranks, a debate that is exaggerated and exploited by so many in the international arena, and which has projected an image of division and weakness."

Concerning the situation in the territories and the Israel-Arab conflict, the prime minister said that "throwing petrol bombs and rocks at our people are not acts of protest or civil disobedience. They are another form of war against our nation and our state; a war of attrition designed to wear us down and force us to capitulate to demands that could endanger our security and national survival.

"Ironically the impression is created outside that the Palestinian Arabs are the victim and Israel the aggressor," he said. "A similar, and related, twist of the reality is the impression that our adversaries are trying to create that this is an Israeli-Palestinian conflict and not an Israel-Arab conflict. We have to remind our detractors that we were forced to fight five wars with the armies of the Arab states around us, not with the Palestinians."

Stating that "in reality, Israel today is stronger than ever before," the prime minister said amid vocal expressions of support that "the return of the Jewish people to this land is an irreversible fact of history. The land is our land from the dawn of history."

The prime minister also criticized efforts to prevent Soviet Jews from immigrating to Israel: "We have achieved much, and we are deeply distressed that, at this time, most of those who leave the Soviet Union with Israeli visas in fact proceed to the U.S. and other countries. This is a contradiction of the essence of our struggle. We never fought in order to move Jews from one Diaspora to another. Our goal was, and remains, the return to Zion, which is in the best interests of the emigrant himself and his children, and is essential for our people."

Following Prime Minister Shamir's speech, participants in the conference were provided with an opportunity to address him with issues pertaining to Israel-Diaspora relations. [passage omitted]

Peres on Palestinian Autonomy

TA2103210089 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 21 Mar 89

[Speech by Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres to Prime Minister's Conference on Jewish Solidarity With Israel on 21 March in Jerusalem; in English—recorded]

[Text] We don't talk of weakness or fear, we don't have to attack anybody. We are strong, and right, and decisive, and we have the full right to make our historic choice without any apologies to anybody. For that reason, we can tell the Palestinians loud and clear as part and parcel of our own heritage that we do not wish to rule over them; that they shall govern themselves as we shall govern ourselves; that they will govern in the densely populated Arab territories; that they may decide on their relations with the Arab world; that they will conduct their lives through their own institutions, from legislation to health, from education to agriculture; that they may carry identification cards of their own; that there will be free access to all sacred sites between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean; that they will have the freedom in the future to choose between a federation with Jordan, with Israel, or with both, and to do so in a state of economic cooperation, in a state of completely free movement, in a state which may remind all of us of the Benelux situation.

We shall tell them that we, on the other side, intend to insist on security borders; that the areas between the Mediterranean and the Jordan River will be demilitarized and assured by the Israeli security forces; that Jerusalem will remain united forever as the capital of Israel; that the existing settlements will not be dismantled; that the freedom of movement will be guaranteed for all concerned throughout the territories; and that together we shall prevent every manifestation of violence, whether war or terroristic activities.

Shamir's Talks With Palestinians Examined

TA2103155489 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 18 Mar 89 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "Test Balloons Floated by Shamir?"]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's statement to the effect that a dialogue between Israel and the PLO could become a necessity if Israel cannot find other Palestinians outside the PLO with whom to engage in a dialogue was a blow to the Israeli Government.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's reaction was to reject flatly any direct or indirect dialogue with the PLO. His justification was that negotiating with the PLO means accepting a Palestinian state, which he opposes intensely.

In an attempt to circumvent this positive new U.S. trend, the Israeli prime minister's office began leaking information and reports about meetings held between Shamir and Palestinian notables. The aim of disclosing these meetings was to hint to the U.S. Administration that there is a possibility of finding an "alternative" leadership to the PLO.

Israeli officials are more aware than others that this exposed attempt is futile, because there is a Palestinian consensus that there is no alternative at all to the PLO.

The Palestinian people have lived under occupation for more than 21 years. During this period, Israel did not put forward any practical plan for ending the occupation and for granting the Palestinian people their rights. Today, under pressure of the intifadah [uprising] and Israeli public opinion, Shamir wants to mislead his people and the U.S. Administration into thinking that he is trying to engage in dialogue with Palestinians. Shamir's meetings with Palestinian notables are no more than an exchange of views, and the discussions do not involve any serious or positive Israeli plans. Shamir's noes are known to everyone, and he has not deviated from them either behind or outside closed doors.

Shamir's aim in revealing his meetings with Palestinian notables and the announcement that these meetings were held secretly, implying that there are Palestinians outside the PLO who are ready to negotiate, was to break up Palestinian national unity and divide Palestinians into those who are "inside" and those who are "outside."

This attempt will not meet with any success because all Israeli governments have failed in their efforts to create an alternative leadership inside the occupied territories.

On the other hand, if Shamir's objective was to undermine the U.S. initiative, which is beginning to materialize in its hints that an Israeli-PLO dialogue has become necessary, then it too will fail because Israel, by its intransigence and rejection of any peace initiative, has lost its closest allies, and no Israeli maneuvers will save it from isolation.

We are confident that all the Palestinian figures who met with Shamir or other Israeli officials have explained, in a way that leaves no room for doubt, that they do not possess any representative status. There is a Palestinian consensus that a settlement of the Palestinian problem should be achieved through the convocation of an international peace conference attended by all parties to the conflict, including the PLO, and the Security Council's five permanent member states.

All rumors circulated and test balloons floated by Israel are baseless and will not change the status quo, which has reached a stage that dictates to Israel the need to work closely with the international community to establish real peace in the region.

No Palestinians can be found who are ready to renounce Palestinian rights. Moreover, the intifadah in the occupied territories, which has been going on for 16 months, has changed the concepts of the conflict and remains the basic factor in motivating the Palestinian cause and directing the Palestinian procession. The Israeli Government is no longer able to convince anyone of its positions and approaches.

Government Trend for Talks With PLO Noted

TA2103164389 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 21 Mar 89 pp 1, 7

[Editorial: "Division in Israeli Opinion"]

[Text] Israeli party and popular voices criticizing the policy pursued by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir in the occupied Arab lands are increasing daily. This policy constitutes an impediment to the peace process and places the entire region in a powder keg that can explode any minute if its fuse is not cut off.

Yesterday Israeli Deputy Finance Minister Yosi Beilin expressed his belief that talks will have to be held with the PLO, acknowledging that the Israelis committed a grave mistake by refusing to negotiate with the PLO during the past 20 years.

Alongside Beilin's voice is that of 'Ezer Weizman, Israeli minister of science and development, who has called on his government to launch negotiations with the PLO, stressing that sooner or later Israel will be forced to take this step.

Meanwhile, bickering began escalating in official Israeli party circles yesterday upon the announcement that Israeli Finance Minister Shim'on Peres has prepared a "peace plan" based on accepting the principle of negotiating with the PLO and establishing a demilitarized Palestinian entity.

These Israeli positions became public a few days after the release of the Tel Aviv University Strategic Studies Center's report advocating the need to hold talks with the PLO and recognizing the Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

Although we do not intend to examine these ideas, which constitute an Israeli language not normally used by Israeli Finance Minister Peres—who until lately had been betting on what he used to call the "Jordanian option," which has been raised again by Likud ministers even though it has been superseded by time and overtaken by new political events—these developments represent a reflection of the existing division in Israeli opinion. This division epitomizes the strong dilemma facing Israel's leaders, which is the outcome of their continued refusal to comply with UN resolutions calling for observance of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

Israeli Deputy Finance Minister Yosi Beilin's acknowledgment of the grave mistake committed by Israel by its refusal to negotiate with the PLO necessarily requires a rectification of this error even if it leads to the breakup of the government coalition. Israelis, on the party and popular level, must translate their desire for peace into practical steps that tell Shamir and his ruling clique: "We have had enough of your intransigence and blindness to facts. We will not allow you to lead us into a dark tunnel."

'Historic Turning Point' Seen in Baker Remarks

TA1603172389 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 16 Mar 89 p 7

[Editorial: "A Historic Turning Point"]

[Text] The hint by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker on the need for talks between the PLO and Israel is the first of its kind in the lexicon of U.S. diplomacy concerning the Palestinian problem.

After 1948, the view of the United States toward the Palestinian problem was confined to that of one of refugees only. After the 1967 war, the solution of the problem was linked to the refugees on one hand, and what commonly became known as the Jordanian option on the other. Following the Camp David accords in 1979, the term "participation of Palestinians from the occupied territories" was added to the U.S. diplomatic lexicon.

Then came the tune of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, with the stipulation that the Palestinian side's members should come from outside the PLO. In the wake of Jordan's severance of legal and administrative links with the West Bank, the term local representation was used, or selection of individuals from the West Bank and Gaza Strip through appointment or elections.

The common denominator of all U.S. attempts and initiatives that sought to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict after 1967 was the persistence in ignoring the PLO and its role in the political process. The last of these attempts occurred last year with the ideas of former Secretary of State George Shultz.

From all these experiences and attempts, it has been proved to the new U.S. Administration that launching the peace process requires PLO participation. Baker acknowledged this fact when he said: "If meaningful negotiations are not possible without the PLO, there have to be talks between Israel and the PLO."

Thus, PLO participation in the peace process has officially entered the U.S. diplomatic lexicon for the first time since the birth of the PLO in the mid-sixties.

This important development comes at a time when international tendencies for launching the peace process in the region are growing. If the United States officially recognizes the PLO as a party to the conflict, it would mean that the U.S. Administration has decided to join European and Soviet efforts to close the file of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Despite our total awareness of the importance of the U.S. position and the inevitable need for it in the peace process, in cooperation with the Soviet Union and West European countries, at the same time we realize the nature of the Israeli rejection of PLO participation in the efforts for a settlement based on the principle of land for peace.

Regardless of the difficulties and obstacles facing political efforts in the present stage, we are totally convinced that the first step for launching the peace process should be to define the parties that are to participate in this process. It is premature to talk about the framework, content, or results of the negotiations before this matter is determined.

On the basis of this fundamental fact, Baker's remarks regarding the PLO's participation are a historic turning point in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Peres: 'No Intention' of Stepping Down

TA2003110189 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 20 Mar 89 p 14

[Report by political reporter Dan Petreanu]

[Text] Labour Party leader Shim'on Peres bitterly lashed out at his critics from within his own party yesterday in a speech attacking "those who are quick to 'draw conclusions' and even quicker to seek personal gain."

Peres' statements, made at a party meeting at Ramat Ef'al, were a reference to Labour Party ministers Mordekhay Gur, Moshe Shahal and Gad Ya'aqobi, who during the past few weeks have repeatedly made clear their intention to challenge Peres at the 1990 party convention. This week, Gur even reported that the three had agreed to coordinate their future moves in order to bring about a "change in leadership."

Sources in Peres' office told THE JERUSALEM POST last night that Peres had "absolutely no intention of giving in" and was "not frightened" by requests from party members that he voluntarily step down.

"It's a difficult time for the party, and the party is no place for the faint hearted," Peres told the meeting.

PLO Reportedly Accepts U.S. Talks Proposal

TA2203114789 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 22 Mar 89 p 1

[Report by 'Aqiva Eldar and Yo'av Qarni]

[Text] PLO leaders have agreed in principle to a U.S. proposal for Israel to hold talks with Palestinians from the territories on an interim settlement, with the PLO leadership being invited to choose its representatives only for the stage dealing with a permanent settlement.

In a meeting to be held in Tunis today between U.S. Ambassador Robert Pelletreau and PLO representatives, details of the U.S. proposal, including the possibility that the PLO will agree to elections in the territories in order to decide on the territories' representatives to talks with Israel, will be discussed.

The PLO leadership is demanding in return that the United States lift its opposition to the demand that the final settlement be a Palestinian state, with the possibility of a confederation between it and Jordan and even Israel.

3 'Terrorists' Killed in Clash With SLA

TA2203153089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 22 Mar 89

[Text] Three terrorists were killed this afternoon in a clash with South Lebanese Army [SLA] soldiers. An SLA soldier was wounded. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the clash took place on the security zone border in the central sector. The SLA soldiers detected the terrorists, who were apparently on their way to commit a terrorist act. They fired a few shots at the terrorists, who tried to escape. A pursuit began, ending in the death of three of the terrorists and the wounding of an SLA soldier.

Lebanese Refugees Allowed Into Security Zone

TA2203095589 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 22 Mar 89 p 1

[Report by Menahem Horowitz and agencies]

[Excerpt] Over the last few days, Israel has been permitting thousands of Lebanese civilians to enter the security zone in southern Lebanon and to settle in Christian and Shi'ite village near the Israeli border. Approximately 1,600 Lebanese refugees, all Shi'ites, reached the Shi'ite village of Al-Khiyam, opposite Metulla. The Lebanese refugees have taken over abandoned houses or have gone to live with relatives in the security zone. Before entering the security zone, the refugees went through thorough security debriefings. Many of the families had once lived in the security zone before moving north to Beirut, but now say they plan to remain in the security zone. [passage omitted]

Rabin Invites U.S. Defense Secretary for Visit

TA1903085189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 19 Mar 89

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has invited his American counterpart Richard Cheney to visit Israel. Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that the invitation is included in a congratulatory letter Rabin sent Cheney on the occasion of the Senate approval of his appointment as defense secretary. Minister Rabin hopes that relations between the two countries and the two defense ministries will be further strengthened during Cheney's term.

Mubarak: 'Extremists' May Oust 'Arafat by 1990

TA2203094889 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 22 Mar 89 p 1

[Report by political correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Text] If PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat does not manage to score political achievements for the organization, he will be deposed at the end of the year and replaced by much more extremist elements, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak said in talks with EC leaders.

Mubarak called on the EC leaders to use their influence with Israel and the United States to convene an international conference as soon as possible. In Mubarak's view, 'Arafat has until early 1990 to get results. If he does not manage to get a political momentum going by that time, the extremists will conspire against him until they get him deposed at the next meeting of the Palestine National Council.

'Arafat's opponents would then demonstrate that the path of peace has not proven itself. Mubarak believes that 'Arafat's removal would be a factor in speeding up another war in the region.

Mubarak Urges Tabah Model for Territories

TA2003140689 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 20 Mar 89 pp 1, 2

["Full text" of "exclusive" interview with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak by Arab affairs correspondent Dan Avidan on 19 March in Tabah]

[Text] [Avidan] What are the practical lessons to be inferred from the Tabah affair (its return to Egypt) on the expansion of the peace process? In your speech you mentioned Egypt's commitment to peace and its effort to expand it in very general terms. How should practical progress be made?

[Mubarak] Ever since the Yom Kippur War, and even before that, Egypt has strived to establish peace with Israel. The war was not a goal in and of itself. We fought the Yom Kippur of 1973 to attain peace. From 1973 to this day we have indeed achieved the return of the (Egyptian) land and the establishment of peace between us and Israel and the Israeli people. Are you talking about fraternity between the two peoples? (Normalization) takes time, but we are already cooperating in many spheres. Israeli citizens come to Cairo as tourists and for other purposes. We welcome that! We have nothing against having Israelis visit us. But to attain fraternity between the two peoples, the entire problem (meaning the Israeli-Arab conflict) must be solved—not just peace between Israel and Egypt, but peace and fraternity between Israel and Jordan, between Israel and the Palestinians, and between Israel and Syria. In other words, between all the Arab countries and Israel. I believe that all these (Arab) nations want peace—and I am saying this to you publicly. Everybody wants to coexist alongside Israel.

[Avidan] The PLO too? Does it, too, want the Palestinians to coexist peacefully with Israel?

[Mubarak] The PLO too! Stop finding fault with it, stop finding fault with everybody! There are extremists within the PLO and there are extremists in your midst, right? Let us talk frankly. The Palestinians are a people. They must be met halfway. They have no land.... The solution of the Palestinian problem should not arouse any fears in you. They, too, are human beings, just like all of us are. A PLO member—what is he made of? He is made of the same stuff you and I are. Namely, he is a human being. He will live alongside you just as he lives alongside me, and will cooperate with you just as he cooperates with me. Then we will all get closer to one another and become acceptable to one another.

[Avidan] Are you suggesting that the Israeli Government should negotiate with all the pertinent Arab elements, including the PLO, within the framework of an international conference?

[Mubarak] Definitely! Why are you so afraid of an international conference? Are you afraid that an international conference will force a solution on you? Nobody will force a solution on Israel. The international conference—and I am telling you this sincerely—will be a "psychological umbrella" under whose cover we will be able to start direct negotiations. Do you want more than that?

[Avidan] Will 'Arafat agree to conduct direct negotiations with Israeli representatives in an international conference where a solution would be determined based on the good will of the negotiating partners and without coercion by the superpowers?

[Mubarak] Everybody will agree to that. I am telling Israeli leaders that progress can be made along those lines. Pay no attention to the (radical) slogans floated in our country and yours. Were we to act on the slogans of the radicals, peace would not last and disaster would befall all of us; we would be doomed to death and destruction. Instead of spending so much money to finance wars, we should use it for development purposes, to raise the standards of living of the people and to live together amid love and cooperation. What can be better than that? And what do we all want? Our purpose is cooperation.

[Avidan] Are you proposing that Israel negotiate a comprehensive solution with the Arab countries and the Palestinians based on the Tabah settlement? That the territories should be returned to Arab sovereignty and the Arabs (such as Egypt) should sign peace accords with Israel?

[Mubarak] Indeed. Negotiations should be conducted based on the Tabah negotiations and similar to the negotiations Egypt conducted with Israel on the first and second disengagement agreements in the Sinai, and later in the negotiations on peace which led to the return of the Sinai to Egyptian sovereignty. Do not be afraid to negotiate with the Arabs! Nobody should be afraid of peace! Peace is nothing to be afraid of! No solution will be coerced on any on the sides in negotiations. Tell that to Prime Minister Shamir, tell that to anybody you want. I am sincerely telling Israelis that peace is very precious! It merits any sacrifice! Because peace is love, peace is cooperation, peace is a life of tranquility and fraternity, peace is life. Peace is everything. What more can I say?

Egypt Pays Ra's al-Burqa' Victims Compensation

TA2103130189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 21 Mar 89

[Text] The Egyptian Foreign Ministry has informed the Israeli ambassador to Cairo that compensation to the victims of the Ra's al-Burqa' incident has been transferred to the families. Our correspondent Ze'ev Kohen has learned from the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem that the families will be able to draw the money within a few days.

Rabin, Arens on Jordan Role in Peace Process

TA2103190189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 21 Mar 89

[Text] Addressing the Solidarity Conference, Defense Minister Rabin and Foreign Minister Arens spoke optimistically about peace negotiations. However, they differed somewhat on the issue of Jordan. David Essing reports:

[Begin recording] [Essing] Both Rabin and Arens spoke of negotiations with Jordan and local Palestinian leaders. The defense minister ruled out the option of Jordan becoming the Palestinian state.

[Rabin] Keep Jordan as it is, don't make it a Palestinian state, don't put 'Arafat in Amman.

[Arens] Talk to the Palestinians—yes; talk to the PLO—no.

[Essing] But Arens added that Jordan, with its Palestinian majority, is in fact a Palestinian state.

[Arens] Jordan is a Palestinian state in everything but name. This is not empty rhetorics, this is geographic and political facts, and the PLO knows it; that is why they tried to take over Jordan in Black September.

[Essing] And as for Israel's Arab population:

[Arens] The PLO wants to speak for them. I say: I speak for them; Israel's foreign minister speaks for them, Israel's prime minister speaks for them, not 'Arafat. They want to bring the intifadah [uprising] into Israel itself, to Yafo, and Haifa, and Ramla, to cities of Israel. We are not going to let them do it. [end recording]

IDF Spokesman Defends Information System

TA1703193389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1605 GMT 17 Mar 89

[Interview with Brigadier General Efrayim Lapid, Israel Defense Forces—IDF—spokesman, by Moshe Nestelbaum on the "Behind the Headlines" program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Nestelbaum] Brig Gen Efrayim Lapid, good evening to you. A column in HA'ARETZ this week written by 'Uzi Benziman, a veteran journalist, finds fault with the reliability of the military spokesman system. As the army's spokesman, how do you react to this?

[Lapid] I react to this with disgust. I take a very grave view of anybody doubting the reliability of the IDF spokesman, which is, of course, not the reliability of the person in charge of this system, but the reliability of the army as a whole. I categorically state that any information issued by the IDF is the truth. Nothing has changed in this sphere since the inception of the state. The complications of the past 1 and ½ years naturally cause difficulties in the supply of information, and this works against us on occasion. Still, the policy has not changed.

[Nestelbaum] Is it possible that the information published by the IDF spokesman might not be accurate because of the fact that the military spokesman system serves a party that might be called interested?

[Lapid] If anyone imagines that the information serves someone's interest, this is very true for the Arab side. On the Arab side I can see publications by East Jerusalem and general Arab world media saying that public relations, communications, and propaganda are all in the service of the intifadah [uprising]. This is not the case with the IDF, for a very simple reason: Put to the test here is a sociological asymmetry between the Arabs and Israel. We are a democratic country and a free society, and this is the way we behave. The Arab side strikes at us with tools to which we are not accustomed. We are not accustomed to disinformation, nor to partial information or rumors. The public, which regularly feeds on the IDF spokesman's announcements, can continue to lean on the same reliability the spokesman system has reflected for years.

[Nestelbaum] We often hear contradictions between announcements made by the IDF spokesman and so-called Arab sources. How do you account for them?

[Lapid] This is definitely a reality we have faced for the past 1 and ½ years in particular. Incidents take place in the heart of towns and villages inhabited by civilians. Daily there could be a demonstration with the participation of dozens, sometimes hundreds, of people, which we handle first by firing plastic bullets. The soldiers, who are about 70 to 100 meters away from the rioters, do not always see exactly who is hurt. We conduct our operational debriefing, during which the soldiers report what they saw. It is possible that an additional wounded person reaches the hospital later, resulting in the Arab source reporting more wounded people. In some cases the Arab sources tell the truth about the larger number of wounded, since we did not know about them, while in others, they inflate the number, adding to it people wounded in other circumstances.

[Nestelbaum] The fact that Arab sources publish information about developments in the territories, while the IDF does not always keep up with the pace with which this information is published—does this not harm the reliability and speed of the IDF spokesman's reporting?

[Lapid] It greatly damages speed, but not reliability. Rather, it serves our reliability. We cannot afford to report on an incident without knowing what has happened. I know that we pay for this sometimes. The rule about spokesmanship and communications in general is that whoever comes up with the information first has an edge. We are aware of this rule, but we cannot always play by it before we know the true picture of the incidents.

[Nestelbaum] Brig Gen Lapid, who are these military sources that have been used in our media lately?

[Lapid] Over the past year, with the help of the press council, we tried to introduce order in the term military sources. In some cases, a military source is any person who leaks or supplies information without approval. We wanted to distinguish between these not sufficiently reliable sources and the official military sources. Sometimes we are not interested in giving information on behalf of the commander of a command, the Air Force commander, or any other army officer, but on behalf of official military sources. Therefore, we say that any information officially supplied to the media on behalf of the army should be termed as coming from official military sources. On the other hand, any information reaching journalists in other ways should be termed as coming from military sources only. The public is not accustomed to media consumption, nor to telling precisely what information emanates from official sources and what from just military sources.

[Nestelbaum] Could you also enlighten us as to who stands behind the term Arab sources, with which you are coping?

[Lapid] Yes. Arab sources today are an information industry which, parenthetically, could be considered an underground spokesman system. Some of the Arabs behind this system engage in this as a purely economic deal, while others do it for ideological reasons as well. There are dozens of them in the area. They maintain communications centers, some of which are equipped with very modern equipment. Almost every Western television network or news agency located in Israel today has Arab sources who are paid for the information they file directly from the area.

[Nestelbaum] Brig Gen Efrayim Lapid, thank you and good evening.

PFLP 'Terrorist Ring' Uncovered in Jerusalem

TA2103180889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 21 Mar 89

[Text] The Shin Bet and the Jerusalem District Police recently uncovered a large terrorist ring belonging to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, suspected of carrying out dozens of attacks in the Jerusalem area in recent years. Our police affairs correspondent Moshe Nussbaum has initial information on the ring:

Some 40 terrorists, all residents of the Jerusalem area, were arrested during the past few weeks in one of the security forces' largest operations ever. The terrorists are suspected of being responsible for dozens of attacks since the beginning of 1985. They are suspected of hurling firebombs at cars and buses in the Al-Shaykh Jarrah and Wadi al-Jawz neighborhoods, on Salah al-Din Street in East Jerusalem, as well as of vandalizing vehicles in the Israeli neighborhoods of French Hill and Ma'alot Dafna.

One of the squads in the ring was responsible for hurling a firebomb at a Subaru in Wadi al-Jawz on 1 November, Knesset election day. Jerusalem police claim that the ring was very dangerous and that its members operated professionally and in great secrecy. They were divided into many cells, with members of each not knowing about the existence of the others.

At first, the terrorist ring was meant to cause damage to Israeli property. In August 1988, however, when the ringleaders found out that Yasir 'Arafat wished to tone down activities against Israel, they decided to switch to violent attacks. Most of the suspects are residents of the Jerusalem area and were arrested during secret investigations by the Shin Bet and the Jerusalem District Police.

Ring Linked to U.S. Attacks

TA2203055889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 22 Mar 89

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The police say more arrests are expected in connection with the large terrorist network uncovered in Jerusalem. It was announced last night that the police and the General Security Services had smashed the ring allegedly responsible for dozens of attacks in the capital. Shlomo Berger reports:

Senior police officials say the terror network was one of the biggest and hardest to uncover in the past 20 years. The organization received instructions and money from outside the country and was operated by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, led by George Habash. Group leaders received instructions through letters written in code and through radio broadcasts. [passage omitted]

The group is believed responsible for a number of firebomb attacks on Israeli vehicles, as well as on the British and American consulates. [passage omitted]

Freeze of Lavi Alternatives Criticized

TA1703203789 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 17 Mar 89 p A1

[Report by Re'uven Pedatzur]

[Text] The Israel Defense Forces [IDF] have decided to freeze the development of a large number of alternatives for the Lavi. The IDF has instructed the military industries concerned to stop the development of these alternatives in some cases, and in others to cut off production and stop the purchase of those systems whose development had already ended.

This freeze means losing the ability in the coming years to gain a real technological edge in relation to the Arab armies. Thus, the IDF in fact has missed the objective it focused on upon the cancellation of the Lavi: optimal preparations for the future battlefield.

A senior military element noted this week that there are grave implications in the decisions to cancel, freeze the development, and stop the purchase of warfare systems included in the so-called "IDF alternatives." According to this element, we are mortgaging our future security, and in the following years we may face a situation in which it will be too late to gain a real technological edge, which is an absolutely necessary condition for IDF success in future wars.

Senior military sources who asked not to be quoted noted that the chief of staff is not applying what he advocated during his struggle for the cancellation of the Lavi project. According to these sources, in his struggle regarding the Lavi the chief of staff relied on an argument whereby there was no choice but to channel the Lavi funds to the IDF alternatives, which are considered first-rate security requirements and necessary for future IDF preparations. According to these sources, there is no real argument within the IDF on the need to change military doctrine, but the opportunity to do so is nevertheless being missed.

The same sources claim that even after the cancellation of the Lavi, the chief of staff did not take firm action to implement the concept he advocated, and too easily gave up on the allocation of funds needed to this end. In their opinion, the chief of staff had to warn the political echelon firmly about the grave implications inherent in canceling and freezing most of the Lavi alternatives.

Senior elements in the military industries argue that the IDF is not implementing the document on alternatives it submitted to the Cabinet during the struggle over the cancellation of the Lavi.

The implementation of the document specifying the alternatives was presented to the Cabinet ministers as a critical goal that the IDF must achieve, for otherwise the security situation may in the future deteriorate to a dangerous point.

'Palestinian Sources' Report 527 Fatalities

TA2203095989 Tel Aviv HA'OLAM HAZE in Hebrew 22 Mar 89 p 6

[Report by Orit Zrubavel]

[Text] The Israeli Defense Forces [IDF] spokesman reported on Monday, 20 March, that there were 320 Palestinian fatalities in the occupied territories. This figure is made up of fatalities from IDF gunfire only.

According to HA'OLAM HAZE's count, the number of fatalities has reached 425.

Palestinian sources, on the other hand, report 527 fatalities, according to the following breakdown:

—359 by IDF and settlers' gunfire.

—71 fatalities from asphyxiation.

—44 fatalities from beating and electrocution.

—53 fatalities from other causes.

Further on Incidents, Casualties in Territories

2 Wounded in Gaza Strip

TA2103201989 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 21 Mar 89

[Excerpt] Another day of rioting in the Gaza Strip: Two residents of Gaza's Al-Shaykh Radwan neighborhood were wounded in violent clashes with soldiers. A third resident was wounded after throwing a pickax at an army patrol in Gaza's Al-Nasir neighborhood. The soldiers fired and wounded the assailant, who is the brother of one of the three locals who were killed by army gunfire last Saturday.

A curfew is in force on the neighborhoods of Al-Shaykh Radwan and Tuffah, as well as on all Gaza Strip refugee camps. [passage omitted]

Officer, 8 Arabs Hurt in Gaza

TA2103212089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 21 Mar 89

[Text] In the Gaza Strip tonight an Israel Defense Forces [IDF] officer was wounded in the head by a stone thrown at the vehicle in which he was riding. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the officer was transferred to Sheba Medical Center; his condition was described as good to fair.

Disturbances and gatherings continued in the Gaza Strip throughout the afternoon and evening. Military sources have reported that 8 residents were wounded, but locals said the number of wounded stands at 10.

The commander of the Southern Command today met with representatives of the International Red Cross in a bid to improve coordination between the IDF and that organization in the wake of the incident in which a Red Cross employee was shot about 2 months ago.

'Terrorist' Squad Discovered

TA2103212889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 21 Mar 89

[Text] Security forces have uncovered a terrorist squad in the Samaria village of Bayt Iba. The Israel Defense Forces spokesman has said that the squad members were involved in attacks on Arabs suspected of collaborating with the authorities, and in throwing Molotov cocktails at an army patrol and at local vehicles. The house of one of the suspects was demolished today after his family's appeal was denied by the court.

2 Nabulus Police Injured

TA2203095189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 22 Mar 89

[Text] Two policemen were injured when stones were hurled at their car near Bayt Iba in Samaria yesterday. The injured policemen are Yosef Danan, the commander of the Nabulus police station, and Meshulam Nagar, the head of the station's administrative bureau. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that Superintendent Danan was hit struck by glass shards and lost control of the car, which then crashed into an olive tree. Both policemen were brought to Tel Hashomer Hospital for treatment.

Sleeping Quarters Set Afire

TA2203115389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 22 Mar 89

[Text] A basement used as sleeping quarters by Arab laborers was set on fire in Giv'atayim today. Our correspondent Alon Ben-David reports that the basement was damaged. There were no casualties. The Tel Aviv police have stepped up their patrols of the areas in which Arab workers sleep and have arrested dozens of Arabs who did not hold the appropriate permits.

Child Killed in Tulkarm

TA2203162389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 22 Mar 89

[Text] An 11-year-old child was killed in the Tulkarm refugee camp this afternoon. This is reported by our correspondent Arye Gus. Military sources say that an officer has been appointed to investigate the report on the killing. The body was snatched by the child's family. A curfew was imposed on the camp following attempts to disrupt order once the story of the incident became known. A curfew was imposed on the town of Tulkarm.

Three residents were wounded in other incidents in Judaea and Samaria today.

1 Killed in Tel Aviv Attack by Gaza Arab

TA2203073089 Tel Aviv THE NATION in English 22 Mar 89 p 1

[Report by Bill Hutman]

[Excerpts] A Gaza Arab stabbed 73-year-old Dr. Kurt Moshe Schallinger to death in north Tel Aviv yesterday afternoon and wounded two other men before police shot and captured him. 'Abd-al Rahman Zabbal Muhammad, 28, had a criminal record for burglaries in the Tel Aviv area, but police said the attack was done out of nationalist motives. "We presume it was politically motivated and premeditated because he had two knives on him," a detective at the scene said. Muhammad stabbed Schallinger in the back as he was getting a package out of the back of a car, and then stabbed him in the stomach after a brief struggle, said an eye-witness who was on a porch overlooking the scene.

A border policeman working at the nearby Egyptian embassy heard screams and came running to the scene. He chased Muhammad onto the roof of a nearby apartment building, but not before he had wounded two passers-by. "Police arrived, went up to the roof and he tried to stab one of them, shouting 'Allahu akbar' (God is great)," said police commander Arye Bibi. Police fired two shots, wounding him in the legs, he added. Muhammad is in police custody, while Amnon Shterlitz, 26, of Tel Aviv, and Me'ir Fishbine, 27, of Haifa were listed in moderate condition last night at Ihilov Hospital. [passage omitted] Muhammad is from the Jabalyah refugee camp in the Gaza Strip.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir last night expressed his outrage about the slaying during the conference on Solidarity with Israel. "What can we do if not defend ourselves," he told the gathering. Schallinger is the 17th Jew to be killed since the uprisings began.

PLO Leaflets Warn Tel Aviv Hospital Workers

TA2103210489 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 21 Mar 89

[Text] Hayarqon District Police last night detained five Arab youths suspected of conducting hostile activities and disseminating leaflets in Ihilev Hospital in Tel Aviv. Our correspondent Moshe Nestelbaum reports that dozens of leaflets signed by the PLO were disseminated in Ihilev Hospital today. The leaflets include the demand that Arab workers resist the hiring of new employees if any of them are dismissed. The Arab employees are further told not to stay overnight at their work place. Workers who disobey the orders are warned that they run the risk of having their homes burned. As a result of the threats, about 60 Arab workers quit their jobs at the hospital.

Bianca Lederman, the hospital's acting director, told our correspondent this evening that if the Arab workers do not show up for work by tomorrow, the management will resort to private cleaning and maintenance companies.

Number of Arab Workers in Israel Decreases

TA2203132989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 22 Mar 89

[Text] The number of Arabs from Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip who are employed in Israeli industry dropped last year by approximately 33 percent as compared to the previous year. This is according to a report prepared by economists from the Manufacturers' Association. Our correspondent Sheli Yehimovitch notes that the report also indicates that real wages of Arab workers from the territories who work in Israel rose by approximately 12 percent.

State Land Distributed to Gaza Strip Homeless

TA1703151289 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 17 Mar 89 p A1

[Report by Eytan Rabin]

[Text] The Civil Administration in the Gaza Strip yesterday held a ceremony in which land was distributed to about 80 Gaza Strip inhabitants.

The head of the Civil Administration in the Gaza Strip said yesterday that what was meant was state land that "the Civil Administration can distribute according to certain criteria."

Answering a question, he said that about 80 lots in the Al-Shaykh Radwan and Kafr Nablah area were involved. "We distribute the lots to large, homeless families. In fact, we lease the land for a long period, at the end of which it becomes theirs."

The head of the Civil Administration said that this is the first time that lots, namely, state lands, have thus been distributed to Gaza Strip inhabitants.

The head of the Civil Administration added that the inhabitants will have to pay a token leasing fee, but that the land is in fact theirs, and they will be able to build houses on it.

This kind of campaign will continue in the coming months. The HA'ARETZ correspondent notes that the state owns extensive areas in the Gaza Strip for which there is no actual use.

Knesset Approves 1988-89 Supplementary Budget

TA2003120889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 20 Mar 89

[Text] In its second and third readings, the Knesset today approved the proposal for a supplementary budget for 1988-89 to the tune of 1.3 billion shekels.

Our correspondent Arye Salman reports that the supplementary budget is aimed at covering the increase in government expenditures deriving from the growth in subsidies, expenditures for dealing with events in the territories, wage increases in the public sector, the damage to agriculture from last summer's heat wave, and the guaranteed exchange rate for exporters.

Paper Urges U.S. Pressure on Israel

JN2203100889 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 22 Mar 89 pp 1, 16

[Editorial: "Another Peace Prospect"]

[Text] We are optimistic now that U.S. President George Bush has begun direct contacts with the parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict in the early months of the new administration. This demonstrates that the international community, including the United States, is now assuming the responsibility for a just settlement of the Middle East crisis and a fair solution to the central problem of this crisis, the Palestine question.

His Majesty King Husayn will begin an official visit to the United States in the first week of May. This will be his first visit since President Bush assumed office. Egyptian President Husni Mubarak will pay a similar visit on 3 April. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir will go to the United States on 6 April. It is certain that these visits and meetings will afford a great opportunity for the new U.S. Administration to acquaint itself with the latest developments of the Arab-Israeli conflict and to hold direct talks with the three parties to the conflict.

Although in its announcement of these visits the White House asserted that the United States will not present any new U.S. initiative and that President Bush will only listen to the viewpoints of Jordan, Egypt, and Israel and press upon the three parties the need to achieve peace, we would like to note that in view of the prevailing appropriate circumstances for a political move, the United States assumes an urgent and important responsibility.

The Israelis have not yet shown any initiative that can be construed as a practical sign of its desire to acknowledge international legitimacy or UN resolutions, two points regarded by the international community as necessary for establishing peace. Although present efforts do not need new initiatives, they do need, however, a quick U.S. move and a clear U.S. policy to bring about peace and justice in the region. Holding the international conference for peace in the Middle East therefore only requires Israeli acceptance—which can only be achieved through U.S. pressure.

The Palestinians have so far done all that was required of it. Its position since the Palestine National Council's session in Algiers has underlined its desire to acknowledge international legitimacy and to accept all UN resolutions. We hope that President Bush's administration will succeed in achieving what previous U.S. Administrations have failed to achieve, namely establishing the firm basis for a just and durable peace in the region and ending a bitter conflict that has continued for 4 decades. If this does not happen, then the Middle East crisis will record once again that Washington has not made a move to curb extremism and has not exerted sufficient pressure to put an end to the injustice practiced by Israel in this part of the world.

Negotiations Open With IMF on Foreign Debts

JN2103211889 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 20 Mar 89 p 9

[Text] Amman—It has been learned from a responsible source that Jordan, which has been facing major economic problems since the beginning of 1988, has begun talks with the IMF to reschedule its foreign debts. An IMF delegation arrived in Amman on 17 March. With a growing balance-of-payments deficit, reaching $200 million in 1988, Jordan seems unable to pay back $920 million scheduled for this year. Official and economic sources put the total Jordanian foreign debt at $6.5 to $7 billion.

King Husayn of Jordan announced at the beginning of March that Jordan had asked creditor countries to reschedule its debts. The government, however, stressed its determination to pay foreign debt services during 1989, estimated at $420 million.

Financial sources have said that Jordan is seeking an IMF agreement to convince creditor countries to accept rescheduling. It also wishes to obtain an immediate IMF loan of $150 million. In return, Amman will pledge to modify its economic policy and reduce its budget deficit.

The same sources said that the IMF, in return for its assistance, will require additional austerity measures including the abolition of subsidies on essential food commodities, an increase in fees for public services (water and electricity), and a further devaluation of the Jordanian dinar. The dinar's value has dropped by about 45 percent against the U.S. dollar since April 1988. But the Jordanian Government has fears (about the indignation of the population) concerning some of these measures. It therefore intends to maintain the subsidies on bread, sugar, rice, and milk. The subsidy program, extended at the beginning of March, was expected to cost the government over $110 million this year, according to an official source.

Immediately after the end of the negotiations with the IMF, which may last for 2 months, Jordan intends to go to the Paris Club, an unofficial group comprising the main world creditor states.

A responsible Jordanian source has stated that France is Jordan's biggest creditor, followed by the United States, the FRG, Italy, the UK, and Japan, all of whom are Paris Club members. According to semi-official sources, 50 percent of Jordan's debts are to France and the United States. These debts are basically due to arms purchases. In 1988, Jordan signed a deal with France to buy 12 Mirage-2000 planes. The debt from this deal, according to the same sources, amounts to $2 billion.

FRG To Assist in Locust-Combat Operations

JN2203082089 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 22 Mar 89 p 3

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—West Germany is to provide Jordan with equipment, insecticides and radio equipment worth DM 1.5 million to assist the Kingdom in locust-combat operations, according to an agreement signed in Amman Tuesday.

The agreement, which falls within Bonn's technical cooperation programme, was signed by West German Ambassador Herwig Bartels and Minister of Agriculture Yusuf Hamdan al-Jabir.

The announcement came only one day after the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) announced the arrival of two "air tractors planes" at the request of the ministry to assist in the ministry's efforts in fighting the pest.

The two gifts came at a time when Jordan is bracing for a fight against the desert locusts expected to invade the Kingdom's eastern and south-eastern regions this spring. Waves of desert locusts, which invaded the southeastern part of the country in the past few months were beaten off by Ministry of Agriculture teams backed by air support from the Royal Jordanian Air Force and the badia police.

The Ministry of Agriculture earlier this month produced exhaust sprayers that will be essential in the campaign against the locust invasion, expected this spring.

Mounted on vehicles, the sprayers are easily activated when connected to the vehicle exhaust pipe. The exhaust forces a verticle spray of pesticide into the air as the vehicle crosses an infested field.

According to experts, Jordan's supply of exhaust sprayers will be a major asset in the control of locusts.

In December 1988, the Ministry of Agriculture issued an appeal to friendly nations to provide assistance to the Kingdom to help in the anti-locust campaign, and has been issuing statements with guidance and instruction about means of dealing with the locusts, precautions to be taken while handling equipment and pesticides used in fighting the insects.

The minister of agriculture said then that more than $2 million were needed to cover the cost of equipment and pesticides, and that his ministry was providing only $842,000 and hoped to get the rest from other countries and organisations.

Official Appeals for Reduced Production Costs

JN2103072389 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 21 Mar 89 p 3

[Text] Amman (PETRA)—The Secretary General of the Ministry of Industry and Trade, Muhammad al-Saqqaf, Monday issued an appeal to the private sector to reduce the production cost of manufactured goods by all possible means and to improve the quality of exported products to ensure markets for Jordanian products abroad.

In a statement to the Jordan News Agency, PETRA, Al-Saqqaf said that the government was hoping to see the private sector transformed into an exporter first and importer second because exports increase the country's foreign currency reserves and help stabilise the national economy.

In remarks here Monday, following the end of a seminar held at the Amman Chamber of Industry to discuss the development of Jordanian exporters, Al-Saqqaf said that industry plays a leading role in activating the national economy since it absorbs large numbers of workers, reduces unemployment and brings in badly needed hard currency for development projects.

The government and the public sector, Al-Saqqaf said, have a limited role and can only help through opening the way for investments by extending facilities and removing obstacles in the path of export operations.

Al-Saqqaf appealed to the private sector to refrain from setting up industries similar to those already existing in the country but rather to open new industrial concerns for different types fo products that can be marketed here and abroad.

Referring to the government's economic, financial and monitary policies, Al-Saqqaf said that they were all aimed at stimulating the national economy in general and boosting industry in particular. He said that the government decision to cancel the requirement for licensing newly established industrial and agricultural schemes, the facilities the government offered for the creation of industries and incentives for investors are all bound to promote industrial production and exports.

The flotation of the Jordanian dinar and the reduced rate of interest on credits from banks, were also instrumental in boosting the country's industrial production, Al-Saqqaf added. The decline in the value of the dinar against the U.S. dollar and other major currencies opened the way for more Jordanian exports, Al-Saqqaf added.

The seminar which was held under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan ended Monday evening when the Amman Chamber of Industry President Khaldun Abu Hassan announced that a drafting committee was assigned the task of compiling the set of recommendations and documents for publication. Abu Hassan, in a closing address to the meeting, said that Jordan was facing a difficult stage demanding double efforts for production.

Minister of Industry and Trade Hamdi al-Tabba' who opened the meetings delivered Prince Hassan's address in which he pointed out that the newly formed Arab Cooperation council (ACC) has opened new markets for Jordanian exports and paved the way for closer cooperation among the four ACC countries to bolster the Arab nation's economy.

Al-Huss Discusses Security, Ports Issue

NC1903102189 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 19 Mar 89

[Text] Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss has declared that efforts are continuing to end the state of tension, caused by the issue of the ports, in order to prevent a new explosion of the situation.

Regarding efforts to consolidate security, Prime Minister al-Huss said: We are constantly trying through all available means to maintain calm and prevent a new explosion of the security situation. We are now trying to reinstate the security committee, even if under a new formula, because we believe that the situation warrants such a committee to deal with problems, including the security problems, as soon as they emerge, and before they develop and threaten the entire situation. I believe that officers of the Lebanese Army who are deployed in both parts of the capital could take charge of this committee.

Prime Minister al-Huss was asked: What has been done to defuse the explosive situation which started with the implementation of the decision relating to the ports? He answered: We are continuing efforts to end the state of tension, which was caused by the issue of the ports, to defuse the explosive situation for good by tackling the reasons for the crisis. I have nothing more to add in this regard now other than to say that we hoped that the decision adopted by the cabinet would lead to a solution guaranteeing the full rights of the treasury. This would also permit us to change the conditions in the ports, including the illegal ports, according to the regulations and laws in effect. Prime Minister al-Huss added: The problem is fabricated. The crisis should have never occurred in the first place. However, it must not last any longer.

‘Awn Source: Syrian Withdrawal Committee Needed

NC1903161089 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 19 Mar 89

[Text] A source close to Prime Minister General Michel ‘Awn has responded to Prime Minister al-Huss' satement regarding the need to revive the security committee. The source said that the security committee has been regarded as nonexistent since the withdrawal of the representatives of the Progressive Socialist Party and the Amal Movement from it. They withdrew out of their conviction that their role had become useless, when they realized that the decision to hold or open fire was in the hands of the Syrian forces, which had already declared themselves responsible for security in the areas under their control. This also prompted the Army to withdraw its representative from the same committee.

The call to establish an alternative committee composed of representatives from the brigades of the same Lebanese army is illogical and unacceptable, the source said, because such committees are formed of representatives from two or more conflicting parties and not from the same unwarring party or army. Therefore, what is needed is a Lebanese-Syrian military comittee which will have the task of discussing a timetable for the withdrawal of Syrian forces from Lebanon.

The source added: When Prime Minister al-Huss says that the illegitimate ports are a cause of the crisis, this is just an attempt to cover up the real reason. Even this humble step to allow the state to regain some of its dues and sovereignty, which was earlier approved by Prime Minister al-Huss himself, was obstructed and prevented due to Syrian pressure. This proves that what is needed is a Lebanese-Syrian committee which will discuss regaining Lebanon's sovereignty, and not an inter-Lebanese committee. An inter-Lebanese committee would be tantamount to legitimizing the imposed partitionist state of affairs instead of declaring the end of the inter-Lebanese war and the beginning of the state's efforts to regain its sovereignty over its territory, ports, and public utilities.

‘Awn Accuses Syria of Protecting ‘Terrorists’

NC2003104989 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 20 Mar 89

[Text] In an interview with the French newspaper LE JOURNAL DU DIMANCHE, General Michel ‘Awn has stated that he wants to liberate Lebanon from two occupiers in particular: Israel, which has been occupying southern Lebanon since 1978, and Syria, whose presence has turned into one of occupation.

He added that Syria is obstructing the legitimate authorities and has, until now, blocked—under force of arms—free elections for a new president in Lebanon. He noted that Syria caused divisions within the Army, the Internal Security Forces, and the Gendermerie. It is working to bring about the collapse of the economy by protecting illegal ports, which export terrorism, terrorists, drugs, and weapons.

Gen ‘Awn said Syria is giving protection to local and foreign terrorists, who were behind the detonation of the booby-trapped car in Jall al-Dhi‘b [in East Beirut]. Since 1976, all Lebanese have lived under the fear of being shelled by large-caliber Syrian artillery, which are always directed at the residential areas.

Asked what he expects from France, Gen ‘Awn said: I believe France will adopt an encouraging stance toward the liberation of Lebanon.

Says Syria Increasing Risks

NC2203172789 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 22 Mar 89

[Text] Prime Minister General Michel ‘Awn has stressed that the Syrian occupation forces' siege of the eastern areas increases the risks of a military confrontation as well as his determination to achieve the withdrawal of the Syrians from Lebanon.

He added: We want to get rid of the Syrians so that we could liberate the South, because they are the real obstacle between us and this area. Gen 'Awn pointed out that the international diplomacy has been active in the past few days with respect to Lebanon. He emphasized the need to keep using the Joint Naval Operations Room.

Bkirki Meeting Denounces Violence, Urges Talks

NC1803082389 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 18 Mar 89

[Text] The expanded Christian meeting held in Bkirki yesterday under the chairmanship of Maronite Patriarch Mar Nasrallah Butrus Sfayr denounced all acts of violence, including the shelling, destruction, and bombings in all Lebanese areas. The conferees said that the violence victimizes the innocent, destroys property, complicates the situation, and offers no solution.

A statement issued following the meeting said that the vacuum in certain constitutional posts has done little to improve the situation and that the way to confront the deterioration is to hold presidential elections and promote a climate of democracy in the country.

The statement welcomed all generous gestures to help the country, particularly the initiative by the Arab League and its six-member committee. The statement calls for the implementation of the Fes conference resolutions concerning the need to hold talks between the Lebanese and Syrian Governments concerning the withdrawal of Syrian troops, the deployment of the Lebanese Army, and the enforcement of law and order all over Lebanon. The statement called for implementing international resolutions, particularly Resolutions 425 and 520 of the UN Security Council.

The conferees voiced their eagerness to see national sovereignty extended over the entire country. Lebanon, the statement said, must be liberated from Israeli occupation and Lebanese and Syrian Governments should hold talks to arrange for the withdrawal of Syrian troops and the deployment of the Lebanese Army forces. The conferees also stressed the need for dialogue among the Lebanese as a way to resolve the existing problems and to reach a comprehensive and reliable agreement allowing for reviving Lebanon as a unified and modern country which is capable of survival.

Kuwaiti Arab League Envoy Arrives for Talks

NC2003082089 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 20 Mar 89

[Text] The Kuwaiti ambassador to Damascus arrived at the Government House in Beirut at 0945 via Bayt al-Din. Ambassador al-Jasim is accompanied by the first secretary at the Kuwaiti Embassy in Damascus, 'Abdallah al-Mawashi; and the director of Lebanon's office in Damascus, Albert 'Afi.

Upon his arrival, Ambassador al-Jasim held a meeting with Ambassador 'Asim Jabir, director of protocol at the Foreign Ministry, and discussed Al-Jasim's itinerary in Lebanon.

Says Tunis Meeting Postponed

NC2003185289 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 20 Mar 89

[Text] 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Jasim, envoy of the six-member Arab committee and Kuwait's ambassador to Damascus, went to East Beirut via the Museum road tonight. It has been learned that he will spend the night at the Brittania Hotel in Brummanah and meet with General Michel 'Awn, former President Charles Hilu, and Patriarch Sfayr tomorrow morning. He will then leave for Zgharta to meet with former President Sulayman Franjiyah and convey to him the invitation of the Arab League.

After meeting with Mufti Shaykh Hasan Khalid and Shaykh Muhammjad Mahdi Shams al-Din, Ambassador al-Jasim said that the Tunis meetings, which were scheduled for next Saturday, have been postponed for 2 days because of the Easter holiday. He also said he had received instructions to convey invitations to former Chamber of Deputies Speakers 'Adil 'Usayran and Kamil al-As'ad to attend the meetings of the third stage, which was originally planned to include former presidents and prime ministers of the republic.

Ambassador al-Jasim has handed invitations to former Prime Ministers Amin al-Hafiz, Rashid al-Sulh, and Shafiq al-Wazzan. He also conveyed two messages to Speaker Husan al-Husayni and Prime Minister Salim al-Huss from Shaykh Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, chairman of the Arab committee.

Sees 'Awn, Ex-President Hilu

NC2103113189 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 21 Mar 89

[Text] Ahmad 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Jasim, Kuwaiti ambassador to Syria, has said the Arab committee wishes to work in a quiet and stable atmosphere so that calm can be restored.

Following a meeting with Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn, he disclosed that he had conveyed to 'Awn a message from Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, the Arab committee chairman, and that he raised the ports issue at the meeting. Al-Jasim expressed hope that a presidential election will be held soon and emphasized that all Lebanese parties are seeking Lebanon's unity and freedom. He noted that many Lebanese and non-Lebanese have vetoed the names list [not further specified] and denied that the Arab Committee's work wastes time.

[In its earlier report at 0845 GMT on 21 March on the same meeting, Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic states, "Also present at the meeting were Minister Edgar

Ma'luf; Albert 'Asi, head of the Lebanese-Syrian relations office at the Lebanese Foreign Ministry; and Jean Alfa, director of the Foreign Ministry's Arab Affairs Department.]

After his meeting with General 'Awn, Ambassador al-Jasim visited former president Charles Hilu at 0950 and handed him an invitation to meet with the Arab Committee members. Hilu thanked al-Jasim for the efforts being exerted by the Arab countries. Hilu said he might not be able to accept the invitation for family reasons.

Al-Jasim is scheduled to meet later with Maronite Patriarch Mar Nasrallah Butrus Sfayr in Bkirki. We have just learned that Ambassador al-Jasim arrived in Bkirki a short time ago for a meeting with Patriarch Sfayr.

Visits 'Usayran, Franjiyah

NC2103183789 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 21 Mar 89

[Excerpts] Concerning the third phase of the works of the Arab Ministerial Committee, Ahmad 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Jasim, Kuwaiti ambassador to Damascus, continued meetings with Lebanese officials. At 1830, he met with 'Adil 'Usayran [defense minister in Salim al-Huss' cabinet and former speaker of the Chamber of Deputies] and handed him an invitation to participate in the third round of the Arab Committee meetings. [passage omitted]

Earlier, the Kuwaiti official met [former president] Sulayman Franjiyah in Zgharta and handed him an invitation to participate in the meetings of the Arab Committee. [passage omitted]

Comments on Progress of Talks

NC2203090189 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0530 GMT 22 Mar 89

[Excerpts] 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Jasim, Kuwaiti ambassador in Damascus, visited General Michel 'Awn, former presidents Sulayman Franjiyah and Charles Hilu, and 'Adil 'Usayran, former speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, yesterday.

Sources close to Al-Jasim have stated that the Kuwaiti envoy will return to Beirut in a few days time to continue efforts to achieve a compromise solution of the ports issue. The sources pointed out that it may not be possible for the invitations extended by the Arab committee to be accepted because of the security situation. They added that the committee may not meet at the end of March if it has not formulated an acceptable solution to the ports issue capable of ending the security escalation and reopening the door to political dialogue.

Informed political circles have stated in this respect that no acceptable solution is likely to be achieved because of 'Awn's obstinacy and adherence to frenzied stands. The circles said that unless 'Awn goes back on his arbitrary decisions and abolishes his naval operations room, no early security and political breakthroughs can be expected.

Former president, Charles Hilu declined to participate in the Arab committee meeting, but Ambassador al-Jasim said that former president Sulayman Franjiyah would take part in the third round of the Arab committee's meetings. He expressed hope that the Lebanese problem will be resolved before summer. Asked about presidential elections and whether they will take place before summer, Al-Jasim said: We hope so. In response to an observation that the Arab committee appears to be working slowly, Al-Jasim said: It is merely making arrangements. Haste could bring about the failure of the committee's work.

Al-Jasim expressed hope that the ports issue will be resolved and that calm and stability—the canopy under which the six-member Arab committee wishes to work—will be restored. He denied that the committee is wasting time, affirming that the committee will come to Beirut once it has drawn up a working paper. He indicated that presidential elections could be held in April. He stressed that Syria is prepared to withdraw its army from Lebanon when a reconciliation government that is capable of establishing influence over all of Lebanon emerges.

His Eminence Shaykh Muhammad Abu Shaqra, the Druze spiritual leader, received Al-Jasim in Ba'daran last night. [passage omitted] After their meeting, Shaykh Abu Shaqra and Ambassador al-Jasim left for Al-Mukhtarah where they met with Minister Walid Junblatt, leader of the Progressive Socialist Party. [passage omitted]

Departs for Damascus

NC2103204789 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 21 Mar 89

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Ahmad 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Jasim, Kuwaiti ambassador to Syria, accompanied by Ambassador 'Aql Jabir, director of protocol at the Foreign Ministry, went to Ba'daran tonight where he met with Druze spiritual leader His Eminence Muhammad Abu Shaqra, and reviewed with him the activities of the Arab committee. The Kuwaiti ambassador then left for Damascus.

Israelis Attack PFLP-GC Positions 20 Mar

Three Bases 'Pounded'

NC2003141789 Paris AFP in English 1410 GMT 20 Mar 89

[Excerpt] Shatawrah, Lebanon, March 20 (AFP)—Israeli warplanes Monday pounded Palestinian bases in eastern Lebanon, killing at least 15 people and injuring 30 others, mostly civilians, Palestinian sources reported.

The midday raid targeted two positions held by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC) in Barr Ilyas and a third further east near Riyaq, according to correspondents.

The bases are located in the Syrian-controlled Al-Biqa' valley and witnesses said the raid drew anti-aircraft fire from Syrian and Palestinian gunners.

Sources with the PFLP-GC, a pro-Syrian group that is opposed to the Palestine Liberation Organisation, said most of the victims had been working in a garage maintained by the group near Barr Ilyas.

"We were totally surprised by the attack," a Lebanese mechanic told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE. "I was lying down under an engine when I heard the bombs crashing around my head. I can't believe I'm still alive." [passage omitted]

'Source' Reports 45 Casualties

NC2003151989 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 20 Mar 89

[Text] AFP has cited a Palestinian source as saying that the Israeli air raid on Palestinian positions belonging to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] before noon today left 15 people dead and 30 others wounded and destroyed three of the front's administrative centers.

Six Israeli F-16 and Kfir aircraft raided the aforementioned posts at noon today, drawing antiaircraft fire from Palestinian and Syrian positions.

Jibril Comments on Raid

NC2003165089 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1530 GMT 20 Mar 89

[Text] An official of the Popular Front for the Libeation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] has told AFP that at least 15 persons were killed and 30 others wounded as a result of the Zionist air raid today against PFLP-GC bases. It is said that the majority of the victims are Lebanese and Palestinian civilians who worked at one of the front's garages, which the enemy's warplanes destroyed.

The AFP correspondent reported that three PFLP-GC administrative centers were totally destroyed. Two centers were located near Barr Ilyas and the third 2 km east of Riyaq.

According to security reports, the Zionist air attacks were targeted against the areas of the 'Arab al-Fa'ur-Barr Ilyas vicinity triangle. A Zionist military spokesman admitted the new Israeli aggression saying it was targeted against Palestinian bases in the Al-Biqa' plain.

PFLP-GC Secretary General Ahmad Jibril, who visited Amal leader Nabih Birri today, commented on the raid saying: We know that we are a constant target of the Zionist enemy and the United States. He emphasized: We will continue our battle in alliance with the nationalist and Islamic forces. He said that this raid constitutes a further effort to shuffle the cards at the internal level in Lebanon.

Minister Birri said that this raid came at a time when Michel 'Awn's army is continuing its attacks against the nationalist areas from the mountain to the southern suburb. This confirms, he added, that the battle is taking place in the same arena.

UN Envoy To Lodge Complaint

NC2103133389 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 21 Mar 89

[Text] The Foreign Ministry today cabled Ambassador Rashid Fakhuri, Lebanon's permanent delegate to the United Nations, requesting him to lodge an urgent complaint with the Security Council and the United Nations against Israel because of its [air] attacks yesterday, which constitute a blatant violation of Lebanese sovereignty and the sanctity of its territory and a disregard of the UN charter, its principles, and Security Council resolutions.

Activity of Israeli 'Warplanes' Reported

Mock Raids Over Sidon

NC1903104789 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1037 GMT 19 Mar 89

[Text] Zionist warplanes staged mock raids over Sidon and its vicinity at 1130 this morning drawing antiaircraft fire. The Zionist planes continued their reconnaissance flights over the South and reached in one of their sorties the skies of Beirut where they broke the sound barrier at 1220.

Fly Over Beirut, Mountain Area

NC1903171889 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 19 Mar 89

[Text] Israeli warplanes continued their flights over Lebanese territory this aternoon after staging sorties over the capital and the mountain, and earlier over Sidon and the camps.

More Mock Raids Over Sidon

NC1903203589 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 19 Mar 89

[Text] At about 2100 today, Israeli warplanes carried out mock raids over Sidon and the nearby camps and as far as the Iqlim al-Kharrub.

Activity Alerts Palestinian Camps

NC2103121289 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 21 Mar 89

[Text] Israeli warplanes conducted mock raids over Sidon and the nearby camps this morning. The Palestinian forces in the camps and adjacent areas in the South were placed on maximum alert as a precautionary measure against any Israeli aggression.

Anti-Aircraft Fire Drawn

NC2203104189 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1030 GMT 22 Mar 89

[Text] Zionist warplanes flew over Sidon and the camps at approximately 1000 today, drawing antiaircraft fire.

No Casualties in Turkish Embassy Shelling

TA2103113889 Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish 1100 GMT 21 Mar 89

[Text] Some shells fell in the vicinity of the Turkish embassy in Beirut, the capital of Lebanon. No one was hurt or killed in the incident, nor was great damage caused to the embassy building. Turkish Ambassador to Beirut Ibrahim Dicleli gave the following statement to TRT [Turkish Radio and Television]:

During the fierce shelling which broke out in Beirut last night, some 30 shells fell in the vicinity of our embassy building. One of the shells hit the embassy garden and damaged the gardener's shed. There were no injuries among our people because, in accordance with embassy safety rules, all personnel were in the embassy shelter.

Some children were playing in the house next to the embassy building. One child was killed, and two others and their mother were seriously injured. They were taken to the hospital for treatment.

Most of the Embassy building's windows were shattered due to shrapnel.

SLA Force Advances Into Southern Villages

NC1903130389 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1230 GMT 19 Mar 89

[Text] Correspondents in the South report that an approximately 200-man South Lebanese Army [SLA] force this morning advanced 6 KM into the villages of Al-Qatranah, Sarda, and Dallafah in the Habayya district outside the security belt, in search of persons suspected of having carried out hostile operations.

3 SLA Members Wounded

NC2003062889 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 20 Mar 89

[Text] Three members of the South Lebanese Army [SLA] were wounded in the South yesterday when fired was directed at them while they were returning from a search operation in the Dallafah area, outside the SLA-controlled zone.

Ba'th Party Organization To Continue Shelling

NC1903181089 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 19 mar 89

[Text] 'Asim Qansuh, regional secretary of the Ba'th Party Organization in Lebanon, threatened today that the eastern areas will continue to be shelled until radical changes are made in the system and the naval operations room is abolished.

Receives Syrian Reinforcements

NC2103072889 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 21 Mar 89

[Text] The Ba'th Party organization in Beirut has received military reinforcements from the Syrian occupation forces. Security sources link the arrival of these reinforcements to a threat that 'Asim Qansuh [regional secretary of the Ba'th Party organization in Lebanon] made 2 days ago that his organization will continue to shell Beirut port until the Army Command has abolished the Naval Operations Room.

Hashish Smuggling Attempt Foiled in Tripoli

NC2103153189 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 21 Mar 89

[Text] The customs police in Tripoli port, in cooperation with the Syrian Arab Army, foiled an attempt today to smuggle about 2.5 tons of hashish which were packed inside 247 tins wrapped with papers indicating that the material to be exported abroad was seasame paste. The eight owners and traffickers of the commodity have been arrested and referred to the judiciary.

Afghanistan

Fighting Reported in Jalalabad, Qandahar, Herat
BK2203024089 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 22 Mar 89

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say fierce fighting continues between mujahidin and Kabul regime forces around Jalalabad. The mujahidin fired rockets on Kabul regime positions, killing 24 soldiers and wounding seven. Fierce fighting also continues around Qandahar city and its airport. Fighting is continuing for control of the Jaghuri and Tari Kowt areas in Qandahar Province. In Herat, the mujahidin damaged two security posts on the outskirts of the city and killed 21 soldiers. They also damaged two tanks on the Herat-Shindand road.

259 Rebels, 'Advisers' Killed Near Jalalabad
LD2103183989 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 21 Mar 89

[Text] A source of the Afghan Armed Forces reported to the BAKHTAR military section that during the last 24 hours the military situation in most regions of the country was normal and important combat operations were not carried out.

The enemy fired heavy weapons at Gardeyz, Ghazni, Konduz, and Khowst as a result of which one soldier was martyred and 3 civilians were wounded. During retaliatory actions by the Armed Forces around Qandahar, 3 extremists protected by Pakistan were killed and 2 others were wounded. A large amount of weapons were destroyed. During combat and mopping up operations by the Armed Forces around Gereshk city, 7 enemies were killed, 6 were wounded, and a quantity of their weapons and ammunition was destroyed.

By inflicting heavy blows on the armed extremist groups in parts of Ghazni Province, the Armed Forces of the country crushed 13 warmongering elements and Narullah, one of the ringleaders of the extremist groups, was found dead alongside a weapon.

As a result of artillery actions by the Afghan Armed Forces at the positions of extremists linked to Pakistan in Enjil District, Herat Province, 14 were killed and a number were wounded.

According to another report rocket fire and fire from other heavy weapons by the Armed Forces of Pakistan and extremists linked to them in Jalalabad city and its suburbs were intensified. As a result of this 7 members of the Armed Forces of Nangarhar Province were martyred and 18 were wounded. Also 10 civilians in the city, including 4 children and 3 women, were martyred and 18 were wounded. Some 5 homes were destroyed and 2 heavy vehicles were damaged.

In the course of retaliatory actions by artillery and the Air Force, 259 members of the enemy force around Jalalabad city were eliminated and 224 were wounded. Some 74 corpses, including 4 of Arab advisers, were seized by the Armed Forces. Also, 2 stores, 4 rocket launchers, 9 missile launcher units, 2 BM-1 units, 2 BM-12 units, a large quantity of light weapons, 2 command posts, and 4 strongholds of the enemy were destroyed.

Supplies to the enemy ranks is continuing by divisions 18 and 11 of the Pakistani Army.

Security Forces Seize Explosives in Kabul
LD2103001789 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 20 Mar 89

[Text] Individuals linked to armed extremist groups, who are opposing the peace and tranquility of our compatriots, again intended, through intimidation and explosions in various populated areas of Kabul, to bring mourning to our compatriots as they are preparing to celebrate the new year. This sinister conspiracy by the extremists was discovered on time and neutralized.

The BIA military section reports that 700 kg of plastic explosives and [word indistinct], 3 Chinese-made Kalashnikovs, 2 pistols, 10 magnetic mines and hand grenades, [words indistinct], hundreds of rounds of assorted weapons, and a number of propaganda leaflets and documents which showed the extremists' links to foreigners and which were hidden and placed around Kabul by individuals belonging to the extremist groups under the protection of Pakistan so that on the orders of their masters they could be used in subversive and terrorist activities in Kabul. Today this hostile plan by the criminal extremists was discovered by members of the state security organs, and the occurrence of any tragic incidents was thus prevented.

'Safe Passage' Secured for Kabul-Parvan Convoys
LD2203074189 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0436 GMT 22 Mar 89

[Text] Kabul, March 21, BAKHTAR—A protocol for the safe passage of convoys carrying foodstuffs and other necessary items, on Kabul-Parvan highway was signed between the concerned government officials and elders of villages situated along the highway on Sunday [19 March].

Present at the signing ceremony were Kabul Governer, Fazil Ahmad Tughian, Muhammad Anwar people's representative to the National Assembly, a number of elders and [words indistinct] the concerned villages and representatives of the Afghan armed opposition.

Under this protocol, the safe passage of the convoy will be provided as of March 20. The protocol stipulates that if any attack is made on the private or government vehicles, the Armed Forces will resort to retaliatory actions. The protocol provides that the essential stuffs like, wheat, sugar, chemical fertilisers, oils and petroleum will also be supplied to the residents of the said villages against cash.

Pakistani Envoy Handed Protest on 'Interference'

LD2103223589 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 20 Mar 89

[Text] Pakistan's charge d'affaires to Kabul was summoned today to the Foreign Ministry. The official in charge of the First Political Directorate of the Foreign Ministry lodged the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan's strongest protest to him. He was told that despite the fact that the strongest protests of the Goverment of Afghanistan have repeatedly been lodged with Pakistan for its interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan—with the direct participation of its armed forces and militia, and the direct activities of its military intelligence services against the Republic of Afghanistan—this interference is increasing every day.

The irrefutable evidence of this interference is the capture of Pakistani intelligence officers Mohammad Afzal Dagar, son of Fazl Elahi, and Mohammad Ashraf known as Bashir, son of Abdol Hamid. The confessions of these spies are proof of the fact that the military authorities of Pakistan entrusted them with the task of gathering intelligence information about the location of military units, security posts, types of arms and ammunition, and other information. They were given the task of persuading the staff of the Armed Forces to defect and join the ranks of the opposition.

Similarly, according to authentic information, on 18 March, 250 militia and 150 regular Pakistan Army troops, wearing Afghan garments, entered Ghaziabad farm in order to reinforce the groups which are active in the invasion against Nangarhar Province. It is also reported that to improve the opposition's mobilization and administration of combat activities, as many as nine American, Arab, and Pakistani advisers were among the aforementioned personnel.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and military authorities of the Republic of Afghanistan express the strongest protest at this blatant Pakistani interference which is against all accepted international principles and which infringe upon the Geneva agreements. It is again demanded that the responsible Pakistani authorities refrain from repeating such irresponsible acts or they will be responsible for the grave consequences.

Arms from Pakistan Seized in Nangarhar Province

LD2103193189 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 21 Mar 89

[Text] The organs of the Ministry of State Security recently discovered and seized a number of weapons and ammunition in the (Dasht-e Ganbera) region of Nangarhar Province. The military section of the BIA reports that these weapons and ammunition were brought into our country from Pakistan by men attached to the armed extremists—protected by Pakistan—to disrupt the peaceful life of our compatriots.

France, U.S. Train Rebels on Mine Clearing

BK2203025089 Hong Kong AFP in English 0234 GMT 22 Mar 89

[By Gilles Bertin]

[Text] Risalpur, Pakistan, March 22 (AFP)—French, U.S. and Turkish military experts are training more than 200 mujahidin guerrillas here to detect and defuse the millions of landmines set during the nine-year Afghan conflict.

The "strictly humanitarian" program at this camp in northern Pakistan is part of Operation Salam, the United Nations plan to rehabilitate Afghanistan, where an estimated five to 30 million mines litter the ravaged countryside.

More than a thousand "Afghan volunteers selected by the mujahidin parties" have already graduated from the camp, 300 with intensive training allowing them to become instructors in Afghanistan, U.N. officials said here.

The mujahidin, who are waging a fierce battle for Jalalabad, a strategic eastern garrison city ringed by minefields, are sending more and more young fighters to learn how to defuse the 26 kinds of mines used in Afghanistan, diplomats said. Currently, 235 guerrillas are being trained by 68 military experts brought in for the program, which has so far cost 11 million dollars. The camp is about 120 kilometers from Islamabad.

The clearance of mines in Afghanistan will be possible "once security can be assured," said Zia Rizvi, an advisor to Operation Salam coordinator Prince Saddrudin Agha Khan, during a tour of the camp Tuesday.

He said the United Nations had not received any "complaints" from Kabul although the mujahidin will be able to use U.N. equipment for clearing mines around government garrisons and airports.

Another U.N. official said the Afghans would have to swear to use their mineclearing knowledge only for "humanitarian reasons." "The United Nations sent food to the people of Kabul for humanitarian reasons, the mineclearing is been carried out for the same reasons in a spirit of symmetry between the two camps," a western diplomat said Tuesday.

U.N. attempts to organize relief airlifts to Kabul stalled after only one Ethiopian Airlines flight brought in 26 tonnes of wheat on February 10.

Experts here displayed several types of mines, including anti-personnel, anti-tank and booby-trapped varieties of all shapes and sizes used by the Soviet-backed Kabul government and the mujahidin resistance. Most were Soviet-made but there were also American, Yugoslavian, Chinese and Italian models. The Chinese and Italian mines are used by the mujahidin. Many of the mines were metal, though others were made out of plastic or wood, materials which are not picked up by metal detectors. Plastic "butterfly mines", which are dropped from helicopters, were often used in Afghanistan. One expert noted that they were Soviet copies of mines used by the U.S. Army in Vietnam.

"Some mines are booby-trapped, inside or underneath, and we have to detonate them for the sake of security," said Colonel Bernard Jouishomme, a French officer supervising the training sessions for the United Nations. Detection can be arduous, he said. "You start by clearing a small path then you make it wide enough for a vehicle," Col Jouishomme said. "A well-trained man can move forward 100 meters in an hour."

The Soviet Union, which pulled its troops out of Afghanistan on February 15, has still not furnished mines for the training program as requested by the United Nations, an instructor told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE. Maps of minefields given by Moscow to the Kabul government have also been withheld, he added.

A second U.N. camp for training Afghans in mine clearing is to open in April in the southwestern Pakistani city of Quetta, and military experts from Norway, Italy, Canada, Egypt and New Zealand are expected to join the program.

Najibullah Endorses Conscription, Transport Law

LD2003202589 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 19 Mar 89

[Text] In accordance with Article 75, paragraph 2 of the Afghan Constitution, esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, endorsed supplement No 2 of the Law of General Conscription concerning the method of service for conscription and the calling up of drivers of transport vehicles between the country's provinces. The supplement has been approved by the Council of Ministers.

Article 1: The period of uninterrupted service by drivers of load-carrying transport vehicles of transport establishments, who do service between the country's provinces, should be counted into their term of conscription or their reserve as follows:

1. If the driver is under conscription or called up to serve in the Armed Forces and carries out transport services from the date of commencement of service in the Armed Forces for 2 years, he is entitled to be discharged from Army service.

2. If the driver is of the age of service in the reserves and serves in the tasks of transport for 1 and ½ years from the date of entry in armed service, he is entitled to be discharged from reserve service.

Article 2: In order to organize the affairs concerning the drivers in this supplement, the Council of Ministers should prepare a special policy.

Article 3: The rights and priviliges of the drivers included in Article 1 of this supplement are to be fixed by the Council of Ministers.

Article 4: This supplement is enforced from the time of its endorsement and will be published in the official gazette.

Najibullah Meets Elders of Lowgar Province

LD2103191989 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 21 Mar 89

[Excerpt] Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, met a number of senators and elders of Lowgar Province yesterday morning at the headquarters of the presidential office. At this meeting esteemed Najibullah, after hearing the difficulties of the people in Lowgar, spoke about the sociopolitical and military situation under the circumstances of a state of emergency and then explained the duties of the elders and senators in attracting the cooperation of the people to broaden and consolidate peace and security. [passage omitted]

Keshtmand Delivers New Year's Address

LD2103234889 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 21 Mar 89

[Excerpts] The holy banner of the shrine of his eminence 'Ali, may God honor him, was hoisted around 0900 today during a special ceremony with a 21-gun salute amid expressions of high emotions, delight and continuous applause from tens of thousands of people. Those present included the citizens of Mazar-e Sharif and other dear compatriots who came to Mazar-e Sharif from various parts of the country after offering prayers for the restoration of peace and nationwide security in the country, and the elimination of the enemies of independence for national security and territorial integrity of our beloved homeland. Simultaneously, the traditional picnic of Red Rose began. [passage omitted]

Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand then delivered a speech to mark the beginning of the new year and historic picnic of Red Rose, and said:

Compatriots, friends, people of historic Balkh, guests, pilgrims, and friends: I sincerely congratulate you on this new year, luminous Nowruz and on this traditional spring festival. I hope that the new year will be the year of nationwide peace in the country, the year of victory over warmongers and warmongerings.

Dear compatriots, you have gathered here in this holy place to take part in the ceremony marking the glorious historic Nowruz, this traditional picnic of Red Rose, and for the pilgrimage to the shrine of 'Ali, may God honor him. You truly desire peace and security and prosperity for your people. Your hearts are full of friendship and purity. It has been envisaged that this year will be a year of blessing and abundance, God willing.

Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand added: Peace is what our country needs immediately and seriously. Peace is a blessing. As almighty God in the holy verse of the glorious Koran says: Peace is a blessing. However, the warmongering extremist groups do not hear the peaceful call from the religious Muslim people of Afghanistan and the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan. They stubbornly persist on continuing the war and intensifying the bloodshed and fratricide in the country. These criminal actions have been denounced by the people of Afghanistan who seek nationwide peace in the country. On behalf of the people, the country's 'ulema and clergymen, who have recently gathered here in Mazar-e Sharif, resolutely denounced these action with an Islamic edict.

Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand added: What do the chieftains of the warmongering extremist forces and their so-called government made in Pakistan want? What pretexts have they for continuing and intensifying the war in our country? They are just a tool and a weapon in the hands of Pakistan's militarists and their reactionary and imperialist supporters. They want to grasp power and gain oppressive rule over the toiling, noble, and persecuted people of Afghanistan. Their imperialist and reactionary supporters add fuel to the fire of their ambitions, on their unbridled feelings and selfishness. At this very moment the warmongering and criminal forces are continuing a destructive war in Nangarhar Province. However, these plans are a last ditch effort and will produce no result except shame and disgrace. It will show their stubborness and defamation in the face of God, the people and the homeland. At this very moment their futile efforts are doomed to defeat and they are being forced into shameful retreat.

The devout defenders of Nangarhar—the soldiers, officers, personnel, and revolutionary guards of all nationalities and tribes of the provinces and regions of the country including historic Balkh—are heroically fighting and resisting the criminal aggressors. They are making an epic. Pride be to these courageous men and brave fighters.

At the end of his speech Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand said: However, we must bear in mind that the people of today are not in yesterday's position. The people of our united homeland and the God-worshipping people of our country know very well their friend and foe and what is good, and what is bad for them. They are increasingly joining the ranks of the fighters of peace. They express support for the humanitarian policy of the party and the national government aimed at ending the war and fratricide, consolidating peace, and at a resolute and independent defense of the homeland, independence, national sovereignty, and the country's territoral integrity. In relying on almighty God and the capable power of our people we go forward into the struggle against the warmongers and [word indistinct] for the sake of peace and, God willing, we will succeed. [passage omitted]

Nangarhar Military Greets Najibullah on New Year

LD1903233789 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 19 Mar 89

[Text] Esteemed Najibullah, president and supreme commander of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan, received the following message from the military personnel stationed in Nangarhar Province on the occasion of the [Afghan] new year:

Esteemed Comrade Najibullah, president of Afghanistan and chairman of the Supreme Defense Council of the homeland: In these critical moments in the country's history, when time is once again testing the courage, maturity and patriotism of Afghans, as general secretary of the PDPA [People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan] Central Committee and president of Afghanistan, you shoulder a great responsibility and honor in leading Afghan society. On behalf of the units and companies stationed in Nangarhar Province, we convey our congratulations on the occasion of the new year.

Esteemed President, you know very well that this new year is completely different politically and militarily from previous years. This difference is felt more in Nangarhar Province. In Nangarhar, this steel defense line for our country, on the eve of the new year our people were preparing for the spring planting and planting trees. However, they came face to face with the joint plundering attacks by the extremists—these enemies of the homeland, people, and revolution—and the Pakistani commandos. A resolute response was given to this sinister enemy plan in connection with the attempt to capture Jalalabad and the plundering attacks organized by armed extremists with the collaboration of and under the command of interfering Pakistani generals, contrary to the Geneva accords and all accepted international norms.

The noble people of Nangarhar and all military units and companies who have up to now fought against the Pakistani aggressors and Afghan traitors to safeguard the country's independence, territorial integrity, and national honor express sincere gratitude for the consistent kindness and attention shown by the party and state leadership and you personally, particularly in sending fresh troops to Nangarhar Province to decisively defeat the enemy. All Armed Forces stationed in Nangarhar, with high patriotic morale, are fighting under the slogans of: Homeland or death! They lose their heads but not their trenches! We are in pursuit of the fleeing enemy from one trench to another and are inflicting deadly blows on the enemies of independence, territorial integrity, and national honor.

We assure our patriotic compatriots and you, dear comrade, that we will not allow any signs of the Pakistani enemy's filthy feet to remain. This new year for the Republic of Afghanistan, under your leadership, will be a year of victories, honors, and the maintenance of peace. With these pure aspirations, we congratulate you and through you all our noble and patriotic compatriots who are nobly defending the homeland and revolution.

Respectfully,

[Signed] Lieutenant General Manokay Mangal, chairman of the Defense Council of Nangarhar Province

Lieutenant General Muhammad Asef Delawar, commander of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan

New Year's Message to People of Nangarhar

LD2103222289 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 21 Mar 89

[Text] The message of the leadership and staff of the presidency to the people and Armed Forces in Nangarhar:

The noble people and members of the Armed Forces based in Nangarhar, the leadership and staff of the presidency convey their sincerest congratulations on the occasion of the new year to you noble people of Nangarhar and officers and servicemen of the Armed Forces based in Nangarhar who right now fight with infinitive sacrifices against the enemies of independence and freedom and the country's territorial integrity.

We follow with deep patriotic feelings the events in the heroic province of Nangarhar as a result of the direct and clear interference of the Pakistani Armed Forces and militia in the form of armed extremists. We know that extended attacks planned by the intelligence services of Pakistan and the United States have been aimed against the innocents of the province. The heroic Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan inflicted lethal blows on them with Afghan bravery and aborted the plan of the rapid capture of the city of Jalalabad in which extremists naively believed. The people of Afghanistan are proud of the Armed Forces.

We are deeply aware that our enemies have threatened the independence of the country and the country itself. The defense of Nangarhar and every inch of the soil of the country is our national and Islamic duty. We defend Nangarhar with the denial of our lives. On the basis of this feeling all of us are ready to go to the front and repulse the attacks of the extremists and Pakistanis along with the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan.

We must teach Pakistanis to know that Afghans have taken the lesson of independence from their forefathers. As they defeated British colonialists they will put down the plans of Pakistani militarists. The people of Nangarhar and the heroic Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan based in the province, by dislodging the extended attack of the extremists which enjoy profound support from Pakistan's Armed Forces once again prove that the brave people of Nangarhar and their Afghan valor never allow any invader to put their foot on their sacred sanctuary. Down with invaders and warmongers. Our collective has accepted to endow its salary to help the injured people in Nangarhar.

Compatriots and Armed Forces in Nangarhar, may victories be with you. May your trenches be stable and down with your enemies. Homeland or death. We will succeed.

Armed Forces Officers' Promotions Announced

LD2103231189 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 20 Mar 89

[Text] The following officers have been promoted a rank for their service to the revolution and earnest accomplishment of their duties.

1. 'Ali Akbar son of Muhammad 'Usman from the rank of brigadier general to the rank of major general,

2. Munir Ahmad son of Najmuddin from the rank of lieutenant colonel to brigadier general.

Rebel Commander Addresses News Conference

AU2103124089 Rome ANSA in English 1025 GMT 21 Mar 89

[Text] (ANSA) Milan, 21 March— The fall of Afghanistan's government is "just a question time, perhaps six months, possibly a week," according to one of the rebel field commanders. Addressing a press conference here Monday, Da'ud Mir, a leading member of the supervision council (shura-e esalmi) for northeast Afghanistan claimed the government must be overthrown from within Kabul. "We do not want the civilians to suffer", he told reporters.

According to Da'ud Mir, the Najibullah government only survives thanks to Soviet support. He also admitted that Moscow is bringing pressure to bear in Pakistan and Iran for the government's recognition.

He added that the resistance commanders have agreed to create a provisional government representing the various antigovernment groups until Kabul's fall. As soon as this happens, he added, all the groups will convene a council to organize elections throughout the country.

The press conference was organized by hardline Milanese Catholics and the local Italy-Afghanistan Solidarity Association to mark the Afghani New Year.

Bangladesh

50 Injured in Anti-Rushdie Strikes in Dhaka

BK2103160789 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 21 Mar 89

[Text] In Bangladesh, normal life was disrupted throughout the country today following a nation-wide strike to protest against the controversial novel "The Satanic Verses" written by the British author Salman Rushdie.

Agency reports say over 50 persons were injured while fighting pitched battles with riot police in central Dhaka. Hundreds of policemen were deployed in the capital to prevent picketing and guard British and American offices which have become targets of the agitationists. Attendance at government offices were also thin today. Business houses were closed and the streets wore deserted looks.

The strike was called by 14 Islamic fundamentalist parties, including the Jamiyat-i Islami. The Bangladesh Khilafat Andolan [religious organization] has condemned the strike. It said hartals [strikes] are not sanctioned by Islam since they are also a form of oppression.

India

Government To Charge Others in Indira Case

BK2003121789 Hong Kong AFP in English 1156 GMT 20 Mar 89

[Text] New Delhi, March 20 (AFP)—The Indian Government is expected to charge at least four more people with complicity in the plot to kill the late Premier Indira Gandhi in 1984, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) said Monday [20 March].

A charge sheet is likely to be filed in court within a month, the news agency said quoting unnamed but highly-placed official sources.

Government officials were not immediately available for comment.

PTI said investigations carried out by a special panel as a follow up to a judicial commission had found that "there were other persons also behind the conspiracy," besides the two Sikhs hanged in January.

The agency did not name those who had been implicated by the special investigating team (SIT) which probed the murder of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's mother on October 31, 1984 by two of her Sikh bodyguards, one of whom was shot dead by commandos immediately after the assassination.

On January 6, the Indian Government hanged the surviving assassin Satwant Singh and another Sikh, Kehar Singh, convicted of conspiracy in the murder.

The official sources told PTI that at least two of the people likely to be charged were already in custody, but again mentioned no names.

But, it said the sources had absolved Mrs. Gandhi's long-time aide Rajendra Kumar Dhawan from complicity in the killing. Mr. Dhawan was found "totally innocent" after "detailed and thorough" investigations, PTI quoted the sources as saying.

The former aide, who lost his job following Mrs. Gandhi's murder, but was reinstated last month after four years in the wilderness, was mentioned as a key suspect in a judicial report quoted by the INDIAN EXPRESS on March 14.

The newspaper quoted the judicial report as saying that Mr. Dhawan had rescheduled Mrs. Gandhi's appointments on the day she was shot and had redeployed her Sikh guards so as to expose her to the assassins.

The report sparked off an unprecedented uproar in Parliament with opposition members demanding that the government immediately table the secret judicial report for discussion.

Mr. Gandhi, bowing to public demands, has promised to table the report in Parliament when it reconvenes on March 27, after a 10-day recess, in a bid to clear up the matter.

"A version of what is alleged to be stated in a portion of the report has reached the press. This is fuelling wilful distortions, malicious innuendo and irresponsible character assassination," he said.

Reshuffle of Gandhi's Secretariat Announced

BK2203085589 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 22 Mar 89

[Text] Mr B.G. Deshmukh, at present cabinet secretary, has been appointed principal secretary in the Prime Minister's Office. Mr T.N. Seshan, officer on special duty in the Cabinet Secretariat, will succeed Mr Deshmukh as cabinet secretary. This was officially announced in New Delhi today.

The post of Mr Prem Kumar, secretary to the president, has been redesignated as principal secretary to the president.

These orders will come into effect from next Monday [27 March].

3 'Terrorists' Shot Dead in Amritsar 21 Mar

BK2103125089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 21 Mar 89

[Text] Three terrorists were shot dead by security forces in an encounter in Amritsar District today. A large quantity of arms have been recovered from the site of the encounter.

Spokesman on Re-Arrest of Jodhpur 'Undertrials'

BK1903124989 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 19 Mar 89

[Text] The Punjab government has clarified that all Jodhpur undertrials have been released following the withdrawal of the cases of waging war against the state. An official spokesman said in Chandigarh today that, however, 78 persons were rearrested and a high-powered committee headed by Ribeiro, adviser to the governor, is reviewing their cases.

The spokesman clarified that these persons have been arrested entirely on different charges, including those of murder and attempt to murder.

'Miscreants' Throw Bombs at Kashmir Police Party

BK2203033089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 22 Mar 89

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, nine police personnel were injured when two bombs were hurled on a police party by a group of miscreants at Khaniar in Srinagar yesterday. The police spokesman told our Srinagar correspondent that the miscreants were protesting against the arrest of a person.

Minister Rules Out Further Division of Assam

BK2203033289 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 22 Mar 89

[Text] The union minister of state for home affairs, Mr P. Chidambaram, has reiterated that the center will not allow further division of Assam. He expressed the hope that the Bodo agitation in the state will be solved through negotiations. Speaking to newsmen at Calcutta, Mr Chidambaram said the demand of a separate state for regional groups like the All Bodo Students Union and Jharkhand Party was due to uneven economic development.

Gonsalves Named New Ambassador to Soviet Union

BK2103125289 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 21 Mar 89

[Text] Mr A.S. Gonsalves, secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, has been appointed the next ambassador to the Soviet Union. He succeeds Mr T.N. Kaul. An External Affairs Ministry spokesman said in New Delhi today that Mr Gonsalves is expected to take up his new assignment by the end of July.

Commentary Views Results of Soviet Cooperation

BK2003105089 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 20 Mar 89

[K. Ganesh commentary]

[Text] The cooperation between India and the Soviet Union during the last 40 years or more is something of a legend. The give and take has been wide-ranging and embraces political, economic, and scientific fields. It has been especially beneficial to India. This bud of age-old friendship and cooperation has blossomed with a rapport and understanding being established between President Gorbachev and Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

Mr Gandhi, who visited the Soviet Union soon after Mr Gorbachev took over, instantly struck a personal rapport. This further widened the dimensions of India-Soviet cooperation. President Gorbachev returned the visit in 1986 and came again last year to receive the India Gandhi memorial award. When he came last, agreements were also signed on behalf of the two countries in New Delhi to expand and diversify bilateral cooperation. Among other things, President Gorbachev's visit resulted in the Soviet Union's commitment to help India to achieve its target of nuclear power generation of 10,000 megawatt by the end of the present century. The visit of Mr Gorbachev has already yielded very fruitful results.

The India-Soviet Joint Commission on Economic Cooperation held its 12th session in New Delhi earlier this month. The Soviet delegation was led by Mr V.M. Kamentsev, the Soviet deputy prime minister, and the Indian side by Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao, the external affairs minister. The talks lasted a week and altogether five agreements were signed. The protocol that the two chairmen signed offers a heartening panorama of the whole gamut of economic, scientific, and technical cooperation between the two countries. Mr Kamentsev also had discussions with the union commerce minister, Mr Dinesh Singh. The outcome of these talks also promises to be very encouraging. Bilateral trade between India and the USSR is targeted to touch 70 billion rupees and the progress in barely 3 months has also been quite promising. It is a welcome sign that contracts worth 50 billion rupees have already been signed in the first 2 months. At this rate the trade turnover may be much higher than the target. In the last financial year also the target of bilateral trade was exceeded by 20 billion rupees. At the meeting of the India-Soviet Joint Commission for Economic, Scientific, and Technical Cooperation, the two sides expressed satisfaction over the progress in implementing the agreements on further development of trade as well as scientific and technical ties between the two countries. The two sides also expressed satisfaction over the headway made in the construction of large industrial projects in India with Soviet assistance during the last 4 years. The joint commission noted the rapid strides made in achieving the long-term program of scientific and technical cooperation signed by Mr Gandhi and Mr Gorbachev in July last year. It also felt that the two countries are trying to develop their economies by increasingly taking advantage of mutual complementarities. A review made by the joint commission of on-going Soviet assistance programs in power, oil, and gas industry; coal, ferrous, and nonferrous metallurgy; machine building, computers, electronics, and communications sector has also received very encouraging results. Of particular importance are the new areas of India-Soviet cooperation in railways, civil aviation, ship building and repairs, as well as in river and other inland water transport system.

It is even more heartening that the two countries have now decided to constitute a working group to give a fresh impetus to joint ventures under new norms of bilateral cooperation. This would certainly forge stronger ties between the enterprises of India and the Soviet Union.

Cuban Agriculture Research Program Signed

BK2003162089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 20 Mar 89

[Text] India and Cuba have signed a work-plan for cooperation in agricultural research. The 2-year plan provides for technical cooperation mainly on buffalo embryo transplants, control of pests and diseases in sugarcane, and genetic upgradation of sugarcane. The two countries will also exchange information and material regarding poultry farming and rice, food, and tobacco cultivation. The work plan was signed in New Delhi today by the director general of the Indian Council of Agriculture Research, Dr N.S. Randhawa, and the vice president of Cuba's State Committee for Economic Collaboration, Miss Naomi Benitez [name as heard].

New Trade, Transit Pact Sought With Nepal

BK2203074089 Hong Kong AFP in English 0732 GMT 22 Mar 89

[Text] New Delhi, March 22 (AFP)—India hopes Nepal will agree to negotiate a unified pact that New Delhi has proposed to replace trade and transit treaties due to expire Thursday, a senior Indian official said here Wednesday.

Kathmandu has rejected the Indian proposal as retrogressive, but New Delhi hopes the Himalayan Kingdom will change its stand and agree to negotiate the issues across-the-board, the External Affairs Ministry official said.

India does not wish to adopt a confrontational posture with its landlocked northern neighbor, but believes that trade and transit are interlinked and should be governed by a unified treaty, said the official, who asked not to be named.

Nepal has insisted on separate treaties on trade and transit.

"We feel that while trade is a periodic arrangement between two parties in question, transit is a necessary permanent condition for the international trade of any landlocked country," a Nepalese official said Friday.

The Indian official said New Delhi would have no alternative but to withdraw concessions enjoyed by Nepal under the treaties expiring Thursday unless Kathmandu agreed to negotiations "even at this late stage."

Under the treaties, no customs duties and quantitative restrictions are levied on Nepalese goods with 80 percent indigenous content and products manufactured with Indian collaboration. Excise duty on Indian exports are also refunded to the Nepalese Government.

India has an annual quota of essential commodities, whose exports are banned to all countries except Nepal, and a revolving credit of more than 16.5 million dollars a year to help Kathmandu overcome foreign currency shortfalls.

India imports petroleum and oil products against foreign exchange worth more than 30 million dollars annually and sells them to Nepal for rupee payment.

But India has said it would stop supplying Nepal from March 31 with cooking oil, rock salt and refined petroleum products. The news has sparked panic-buying in Kathmandu.

The transit treaty gives Nepal access to 15 entry points across the open border in addition to transit facilities from Bhutan and Bangladesh. India also gives warehousing facilities to Nepalese goods at concessional rates.

When the treaties expire Thursday, movement of essential commodities between the two countries would continue but Nepal would no longer enjoy the duty concessions. India would also not be obliged to give Nepal access to more than one entry point, the Indian official said.

The trade and transit dispute comes at a time when relations between India and Nepal are already strained.

Last year, Kathmandu purchased from China—which fought a brief war with India in 1962—a large quantity of arms that reportedly included anti-aircraft guns and medium-range surface-to-surface missiles.

Indian officials have said Nepal's introduction in 1987 of work permits for Indians has prevented Indian traders from opening bank accounts and Indian transport vehicles from being registered.

Nepal has also reportedly levied additional customs duties on Indian goods, making them less competitive.

The estimated 150,000 Indians in Nepal are also not allowed to travel through a 10-kilometre strip of land across the Sino-Nepalese border, though Indian newspapers have said that Chinese are not barred from visiting the Sino-Indian frontier.

Indian officials say such measures violate a 1950 Indo-Nepalese Friendship Treaty which provides for freedom of travel, ownership of property, trade and employment opportunities.

Agreement To Import Kuwaiti Oil Signed 20 Mar

BK2203084689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 22 Mar 89

[Text] India will import over 2 million tons of crude oil and petroleum products from Kuwait this year. An agreement to this effect was signed in Kuwait on Monday between the two countries. Under the agreement Kuwait will supply to India 1 million tons of crude oil and 1.8 million tons of petroleum products worth 600 crore rupees.

Joint Commission Meeting With Mauritius Ends

BK1703164289 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 17 Mar 89

[Text] Several new projects have been identified for execution in Mauritius with Indian assistance. The projects cover wide range of developmental activities in agriculture, education, infrastructure, health, industry, and training. This was decided at the Indo-Mauritius Joint Commission meeting, which ended in New Delhi today.

The agreed minutes of the meeting was signed the external affairs minister, Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao, and the deputy prime minister of Mauritius, Dr Ghurburrun.

Later, speaking to newsmen Dr Ghurburrun invited Indian entrepreneurs to invest in his country in a big way.

Editorial Views Bhutto's Arms Cut Proposals

BK2003084189 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 7 Mar 89 p 11

[Editorial: "Benazir's Suggestions]

[Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's intention to pursue with India the objective of mutual troop and arms cut is as interesting as her ruling out a joint defence pact with India. In a recent interview with a Calcutta weekly, she said that an arms cut proposal had indeed been made by former President Ziaul Haq. She did not have an opportunity to discuss the matter with Mr Rajiv Gandhi during his brief visit to Pakistan for the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] summit last December, but Ms Bhutto expressed the hope that the subject would be taken up at Indo-Pak meetings in the future. Ms Bhutto ruled out a joint defence pact with India in an interview to BBC. Ms Bhutto apparently means well but she is still on thin ice where military affairs are concerned. The preface to her interview with Calcutta journal makes the interesting point that she has agreed not to touch the military budget. A commitment of this sort could not square with the kind of sentiments she has just expressed. Mr Rajiv Gandhi, meanwhile, has made a laudable gesture by cutting India's defence budget, marginally in actual terms but substantially in real sense. Pakistan needs to reciprocate this, especially if the $626.7 million package for US military and economic aid is not to sustain misgivings in Indian minds. It is true that Ms Bhutto cannot be expected to do something dramatic and in the immediate future to prove that military power is on the wane in Pakistan. But gestures in these matters are important.

The security perceptions of Pakistan and India have acquired such complexities over the last three decades that military may be among the last areas where spectacular improvements can be expected soon. But efforts in this sphere can be helped by consciously nursing and strengthening Indo-Pak relations in other areas like culture, communication, tourism, commerce and industry. Ms Bhutto has expressed the hope that Mr Gandhi will undertake a full-feldged visit to Pakistan, (the one for the SAARC summit yielded no more than a one-hour meeting), before she returns the visit. Such visits offer opportunities for the two leaders to fill Indo-Pak relations with solid content and should be availed of. But much depends on how strong Ms Bhutto feels vis-a-vis the military and its civilian supporters in the IJI [Islami Jamhoori Ittehad]. The latter has managed to build up a near confrontation over the Centre-Punjab relations. While she must understandably remain circumspect about her domestic problems with a bearing on relations with India, it is difficult to understand why Ms Bhutto should be so unduly cautious about expanding economic ties with India. In the interview with the Calcutta weekly, she came round to the point over and over again that trade between the two countries should be left to the SAARC framework, and not to bilateral efforts. SAARC is a weak institution for boosting economic relations. Ms Bhutto knows it as well as others. The two countries will have to wade through a lot of complexities if they agree to pursue Ms Bhutto's arms cut suggestion. But for the time being she can ensure that cultural and economic exchanges are not quarantined to the multilateral mechanism of SAARC. Whatever the merits of Ms Bhtto's off-hand suggestion, her desire for improving Indo-Pakistan relations that it reveals, should be welcome in New Delhi. It can be built upon.

Iran

UK Government Orders 9 More Nationals To Leave

LD2203133889 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 1141 GMT 22 Mar 89

[By Peter Archer, PRESS ASSOCIATION Home Affairs correspondent]

[Text] Nine more Iranians were today ordered to leave Britain in the wake of the Salman Rushdie affair.

The latest expulsions, ordered by the Home Office on security grounds, include former staff at the Iranian Embassy in London and extremist students sponsored by the Ayatollah Khomeyni regime.

So far, 18 Iranian nationals have been told to leave Britain after the break in diplomatic relations with Iran.

Eight have already left, rather than face deportation, and one is detained by immigration officials.

London-based author Salman Rushdie, sentenced to death by the ayatollah after publication of the novel The Satanic Verses which Muslims regard as blasphemous, is still in hiding under armed police guard.

Commentary Views EEC Decision on Envoys

LD2103222389 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 21 Mar 89

[Station commentary entitled " The EEC Decision Resulted (?From) a Realistic Stand"]

[Text] The member states of the European Economic Community, EEC, after several days of talks and discussions yesterday, by adopting a wise decision, announced that they would soon send back their ambassadors to Tehran.

According to diplomatic sources close to the said countries, dispatches report that the EEC member states will soon and individually send back to Tehran their political representatives or ambassadors whom they had recalled from Iran following the controversial issue on the blasphemous book, "The Satanic Verses."

Since about 4 weeks back, when the EEC member states recalled their senior political representatives from Tehran, the adoption of yesterday's decision by the EEC was not much remote from mind for most of the political observers. Neither Iran's conditions nor the region's general conditions, in which Iran is manifested as a fundamental weight, permitted the continuation or pursuance of such unwise decision.

Even in the same days when the European countries, under the pressure of the British Government, had decided in their words to isolate Iran, most analysts believed that the summoning up of the ambassadors was only a limited political measure; and beyond doubt, these countries had adopted such an unwise policy with reluctance.

The Islamic Republic of Iran since the beginning announced that the issue of apostate Salmon Rushdie and the blasphemous book of this author is a topic which is related to the Islamic nations and governments. And if the non-Islamic governments really claimed that they are not related to that book or its author and basically if they do not consider the publication of blasphemous matters is proper, they are required to dissociate themselves from the policy which encourages Salman Rushdie in writing the blasphemous book.

The Islamic Republic of Iran's stance was immediately accepted and comprehended by most of the countries. Perhaps the best example for the comprehension of such a policy among the European countries is Sweden which immediately sent back to Tehran its ambassador whom it had recalled for consultation.

The Swedish ambassador, after returning to Tehran, in a meeting with the officials of the Iranian Foreign Ministry announced that "The Satanic Verses" was blasphemous and it had insulted Muslims.

But as to why the EEC did not comprehend this basic stance of Iran and unwisely decided to impose restrictions in relations to Iran, one must certainly look for its reasons in the British Government's pressure on the EEC as well as in the pointless excitements by some of the EEC members.

London, in the capacity of the sharp point of the plot hatched against the world of Islam and in the capacity of the factor explaining Salmon Rushdie's plot as well as the blasphemous book, "The Satanic Verses," since the beginning attempted to make other countries, especially the European countries, an accomplice in its plot against the world of Islam.

The British foreign secretary's frequent visits to other countries, and the British Government's propaganda war against Muslims were all aimed at involving other countries in this plot.

London has always [word indistinct] announced that Muslim stance against Salman Rushdie is a flagrant violation of human rights, and with this statement it practically proved that it has no respect for the basic rights of 1 billion Muslims.

The British Government, with such an outlook, and poisonous stance, embarked on poisoning the climate of the EEC 4 weeks ago and compelled the EEC governments to adopt a decision, though limited, against Iran. As a result these governments, without being farsighted or looking into the aspects of this issue as well as without thinking about the consequences of adopting any unwise decision against Tehran, recalled their senior representatives from the most important Middle Eastern country, that is Iran.

During this period of time Britain worked hard to compel the European governments to adopt a hard decision against Iran. Even some analysts believed that in the final session of the EEC, held yesterday, they would once again line up with Britain against Iran.

However, this time realities had shown themselves and Britain, despite its efforts, failed to cover up these realities.

Beyond doubt, Britain was alone in yesterday's session. Britain had certainly lost again. However, the European governments must not forget this experience, for Britain forced them into a dangerous game but retreated later.

Fortunately, the EEC left Thatcher's government by itself and returned from midway.

Majlis Urges Change in Relations With Turkey

NC2203120989 Tehran International Service in Turkish 1700 GMT 20 Mar 89

[Text] Hashemi-Rafsanjani chaired the last meeting of the Islamic Majlis for the current Iranian year today. A total of 150 members of the Majlis submitted a letter to the chairman condemning the Turkish Government's ban on Islamic attire in Turkey. The members of the Majlis also urged the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to modify the level and situation of the political, cultural, and economic relations between Turkey and the Islamic Republic of Iran in accordance with the attitude and policy of the Turkish Government toward Islam and the Muslims.

Tudeh Party Announces New Year's Message

LD2103190889 (Clandestine) Radio of the Iranian Toilers in Persian 0230 GMT 21 Mar 89

[New Year greetings message of the Tudeh Party of Iran]

[Excerpts] Compatriots. The year 1988 has ended and we are on the threshold of the first hours of the new year. In marking this happy occasion and ancient Nowruz, we express our warmest and sincerest wishes to you. In the year that has passed, our nation has experienced many events. In this year, after 8 years of bloody war, a meaningless war, the sun of peace began to shine and gave warmth to those longing for peace and tranquillity. The imposition of peace on the war-worshipping Khomeyni regime was, without doubt, the greatest and most respected achievement of you, heroic people, you, fighting sisters and brothers, women and men of the homeland. If the end of the accursed war and the establishment of peace was a cup of poison to Khomeyni, it was nectar to thousands of households who had lost their dear ones, and for the people of Iran; it sweetened their mouth. May your mouth always become sweet with these kinds of achievements. The New Year should be considered as the year for the decisive and final establishment of peace. Evidently, your the resolve and will, the laboring and determined people of the homeland, will have a major and decisive role in this great deed. [passage omitted]

The regime could not tolerate the happiness that showed on the people's faces as a result of the end of the war. The ruling circles were frightened of the questions being asked by the masses on why there was a war and the merciless and meaningless killings and the destruction of thousands of towns, cities, and villages, so they embarked on more represssion and the most awful crimes. The antidemocratic deeds of the regime reached their climax in the tragedy of the dungeons, in the course of which thousands of the brave children of the people and strugglers on the path of the happiness and liberation of the people were executed. In this tragedy, our party lost a great number of its leaders, cadres, and prominent and devoted members.

We take this opportunity once again to pay tribute to the epic-making deeds of these brave Tudeh people, and express our deepest respect to their mourning families. The horrific crimes committed in the prisons were blatant revenge directed against the people who dared to pour the cup of poison down the throat of the warmongering supreme jurisconsult. [passage omitted]

The killing of political prisoners created such anger in Iranian society and among world public opinion that the ruling criminals have not yet been able to free themselves from the pressures that these brought upon them. However much these experiences were for you, the people of Iran, full of a mixture of celebration, pain and suffering, the ruling regime was not able to achieve its goal, that is, to silence the people. The trend of people's complaints against the regime intensified, and the all-round economic, social, and political crisis threw the rulers into their own quagmire. This trend is continuing today, and its prospects make the rulers shiver.

There is no doubt that in the new year the justice- and freedom-seeking people of Iran will intensify resistance against the greedy and blood-shedding regime of the rule of the jurisconsult, but the masses throughout the country will, more sympathetically and in a more extensive manner, strive to achieve freedom, peace, and prosperity of the homeland.

The Tudeh Party of Iran, as in the past, will put all its efforts and knowledge toward this history-making resistance so that it may play its role in the realization of oaur national interests. In order to achieve these objectives, the New Year should be transformed into a year that witnesses the expansion and strengthening of (?unions) and the unity between all freedom-seeking, progressive, and democratic forces. The party hopes that the New Year will be one in which this aim of the revolutionary movement of our homeland becomes a reality. May the New Year struggle along this holy path be a happy and prosperous one for all the honorable and decent people of our country, all the supporters and fighting members of the party, and all the progressive and democratic forces of the country.

[Signed] Tudeh Party of Iran

[Dated] 21 March 1989

Feda'i-ye Khalq Issues New Year's Message

LD2103233389 (Clandestine) Radio of the Iranian Toilers in Persian 0230 GMT 21 Mar 89

[New Year's greetings message from the Feda'i-ye Khalq]

[Text] Compatriots. The cold winter of weariness and pallor has passed and is replaced by a life-enhancing spring. This transformation in nature brings news that this oppressive winter of Khomeyni's clericalism, which is full of shame and misfortune, will also pass and the spring of freedom, which brings forth life and prosperity, will arrive.

In the year that has passed, the 8-year war between Iran and Iraq ended. The end of war and bloodshed between the two countries, which Khomeyni likened to drinking poison, opened the eyes of many to the crimes of Khomeyni and other regime leaders. People saw that Khomeyni, merely for the sake of his reactionary and opportunistic goals, led hundreds of thousands to the cemeteries, made millions of people homeless and refugees, turned hundreds of people into disabled and crippled persons, and burned large parts of our territory turning them into ruins. The terrible crimes and huge damage which Khomeyni inflicted on our people through the continuation of the war were such that successive generations will suffer their dire consequences, reconstruction work, and national production in the coming years, and for a long time will not be capable of rectifying all this.

The piercing cries of the war victims could still be heard when Khomeyni embarked on another horrific crime and created another national tragedy: He massacred the country's political prisoners. In the course of a terrible crime, the regime executed more than 1,000 revolutionary prisoners, women and men whose only desire was the happiness of the people, and peace, liberation, and justice. The crimes and duplicities of the Khomeyni regime have ruined our country and brought poverty, misery, misfortune, and mourning to the people. The oppression and repression being forced on our nation by the Islamic Republic has enslaved all popular, national, and nationalistic forces, and prevents reconstruction, prosperity, and pride. By struggling along the path of achieving the spring of freedom, the black winter of the akhunds [clergymen] must come to an end.

Compatriots. The animosity of the Akhund regime of Khomeyni toward the people and our national and nationalistic aspirations has a variety of dimensions. This regime even regards with hostility the traditions and rites of the ancient feast of Nowruz, and tries every trick and stratagem to discredit the national and popular feast of Nowruz. It is up to our people to express their warmongering contempt and disgust with the akhund regime of Khomeyni, and to celebrate this ancient feast and perform energetically all the rites and rituals associated with it.

Freedom-loving people of Iran. Visit the families of the martyrs of the people during the Nowruz holidays; visit the families of political prisoners; express sympathy and solidarity with the families of the martyrs of people and the families of political prisoners in your visits during Nowruz; and display the splendid aspect of your fighting and battling drive against the Khomeyni regime. The Central Committee of the Feda'i-ye Khalq Organization-Majority, once again expresses its greetings and congratulations to you on the occasion of Nowruz, and wishes happiness and health to all the people of Iran. May all your days be a new day, and may your new day be victorious.

[Signed] The Central Committee of the Feda'i-ye Khalq Organization-Majority

[Dated] 21 March 1989

Members of Revolution Guard Said Executed

AU2203102489 Cologne Deutschlandfunk Network in German 1000 GMT 22 Mar 89

[Text] According to information from leftist rebels, purges are being carried out within the Iranian Revolution Guard, the regime's elite troops. The Office of the People's Mujahidin Iran in Cologne reported today that 20 senior leaders of the guard have been executed because they had planned the killing of a number of leading officials. A commander complained recently that the troop has split up into numerous factions and small groups following the termination of hostilities with Iraq, the office stated.

Velayati Deplores ICAO Airbus Findings

LD2203092389 Tehran IRNA in English 0855 GMT 22 Mar 89

[Text] Tehran, March 22, IRNA—The Iranian foreign minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati in a message to the secretary general of the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) Tuesday deplored its recent resolution on the downing of an Iranair civil aircraft by the American warship USS Vincennes last July.

The foreign minister regretted the ICAO's refusal to denounce the U.S. Administration for attacking an Iranair A-300 Airbus which was flying over Iran's territorial waters in the Persian Gulf.

"The ICAO's declaration was, unfortunately, contrary to its regulations and opposite to its past records in similar cases and against international expectations," the message said.

The message further underlined Iran's severe protest to ICAO and emphasized that "the organisation is undoubtedly responsible for its consequences."

The ICAO statement which was made in Montreal last Friday, ended an eight-month examination of the incident in which all 290 passengers and crew aboard the plane lost their lives.

The U.N. agency rejected a request for censure by the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia without blaming any country. It only adopted a resolution that reaffirmed its policy of condemning the use of weapons against civil aircraft and deplored the incident.

Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi in a reaction to the organisation's behaviour said last week that "the law of the jungle rules in the international organisations."

The Iranian representative to ICAO who had observer status warned the session that the council's decision "will only pave the way for future occurances of such acts of violence."

Paper Cites Velayati on Peace Talks With Iraq

NC2103131189 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 15 Mar 89 p 4

[Report by Mohammad Javid]

[Text] Tehran—Iran said yesterday it was willing to resume peace talks with Iraq in the middle of Ramadan, the third week of April.

"To show our goodwill we propose the third week of April to start the talks again," Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said.

But he reiterated that negotiations on a formal end to the eight-year Iraqi war could only move forward when Iraq pulled out its troops from Iranian territory.

"Until the withdrawal takes place, there will be no progress in the talks," he said in an interview.

"I stress again that at this moment there is nothing more important than the withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Iranian territory."

The talks, the fourth round since the August 20 ceasefire, were agreed with U.N. intermediaries to restart in New York late this month but Velayati said the Iraqis wanted it postponed to the first week of April.

"This is another example of sabotage. The Iraqis will use every opportunity to throw obstacles in the way."

The Iraqi forces are occupying more than 2,000 sq kms of Iranian land almost seven months after a cease-fire based on U.N. Security Council Resolution 598.

Last week Iran, publicly said Iraq would not be allowed to use the vital Arvand River, unless it complied with the resolution's demand to pull back from Iranian territory. The river, known as the Shatt al-'Arab by Iraq, is the only outlet for Iraq's largest port, Basra, to the Persian Gulf.

Wearing a neat striped collarless shirt under a dark blue vest and coat, Velayati sat in the middle of a long table used normally for talks with foreign delegations at the main ministry building.

Persian morning newspapers, which he was reading before IRNA reporters came in, were folded in front of him.

Within the past week the Foreign Ministry submitted a formal letter to the U.N. secretary general detailing on a map where exactly the Iraqi forces had taken position inside Iran, Dr. Velayati said.

"I have asked the secretary general (Javier Perez de Cuellar) to deal seriously with this issue."

The foreign minister said the map showed areas where U.N. military observers had confirmed the presence of the Iraqi forces in Iran based on the 1975 peace treaty.

The letter was in response to contradictory statements by the Iraqi president and the foreign minister on the status of their forces along the border.

In a press conference Tariq 'Aziz had denied the presence of Iraqi soldiers in Iran while Saddam Husayn in an interview with an Arab newspaper claimed that the presence of its forces in Iranian soil was aimed at defending Iraq.

"This is the same mentality of the regime occupying Palestine," Velayati said, pointing at Israel's occupation of southern Lebanon.

"The Iraqis want to reduce the pressure of world public opinion which is against them and on the other hand to use this (occupation) as a lever to achieve their illegitimate aims."

On the joint commanders meeting, Velayati said a report earlier this month that the commanders were due to confront each other was false.

Iran had not agreed with the meeting because the Iraqis "without reason and logic" had included a condition that it be held inside Iranian territory.

But the foreign minister added that U.N. officials were trying to work out the time and place of the meeting which was originally agreed between the two countries to be held alternatively in Iranian town of Khorramshahr and the Iraqi port of Basra.

"It doesn't matter for us where we meet first, either Basra or Khorramshahr," Velayati said.

He also said Iran was willing to exchange all prisoners of war but only within the framework of Resolution 598 which stipulates that forces should withdraw to international borders.

Further on Velayati Remarks

NC2103135389 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 15 Mar 89 p 2

[Editorial entitled "Cease-Fire Prolongation, A Threat to Peace" from the "Opinion" column]

[Text] Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati remarked in an interview yesterday that Iran has proposed the third week in April as the time for the start of the next round of peace negotiations with Iraq. Yet the sudden eruption of the crisis resulting from the publication of "The Satanic Verses" caused a further slow-down in the peace process and the implementation of Resolution 598.

However, the U.N. chief's steps and decisions in this connection should not be influenced by recent developments. It can be vividly recalled that Mr. Javier Perez de Cuellar's proposal for the setting up of a joint Iran-Iraq military committee was delayed due to Iraq's preconditions. Iraq demanded that such a committee be established in Iran and contested the U.N. chief's proposal that the committee be set up alternately in the Iranian city of Khorramshahr and the Iraqi city of Basra.

In view of such developments, it becomes incumbent on the regional political organizations to press on with efforts to prepare the grounds for a rapid implementation of Resolution 598 and hence the settlement of peace. The Organization of Islamic Conference and the (Persian) Gulf Cooperation Council can certainly wield highly effective leverage towards this end.

Along this line, Iran can cash in on the recent betterment of relations with some regional countries to exert pressure on the Iraqi regime to accelerate the pace of the implementation of the ceasefire Resolution 598.

The Organization of Islamic Conference can at least embark on shaping a committee comprised of the foreign ministers of member nations. The body can work to speed up the implementation of at least two articles of the resolution, namely the withdrawal of troops to internationally recognized borders and the exchange of the prisoners of war.

Furthermore, the establishment of this committee will also surely help prevent the chances for the resumption of fighting between the two countries.

It is to be noted that the military and political situation at many points along the Iran-Iraq border is highly explosive. Reports reaching here speak of Iraqi violations of Aug. 20 ceasefire which resulted in sporadic fighting between the two forces with some casualties and damages in the past few months. According to fresh reports Monday night Iraq breached the ceasefire by shelling of Shalamcheh and Abadan.

With such developments on, it can be predicted that Iraq is out to retard Iran's reconstruction plans at least in the border provinces. Furthermore, war-related tensions can also heighten a sense of insecurity within the country.

At any rate, what is of paramount importance today is the passage of time that is sure to adversely affect the fragile ceasefire along the borders. Therefore, this should induce all the countries and organizations involved, particularly the Security Council, not to leave any stone unturned to press on with the implementation of Resolution 598.

UAE Paper on Arms Deals With Romania, CSSR

JN2103175389 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 20 Mar 89 p 1

[Text] AL-ITTIHAD has learned that Iran has recently signed arms agreements with both Romania and the CSSR within the framework of its efforts to rehabilitate its Armed Forces, which have been destroyed during the war years with Iraq.

East European military sources have revealed to AL-ITTIHAD that Iran will acquire from Romania, according to these agreements, 300 military vehicles, including armored personnel carriers and armored vehicles, as well as 180 tank trailers. In addition, Romania will contribute to the building of a new naval base in Jazireh-ye Qeshm overlooking the Strait of Hormuz, the modernization of the agricultural tractor factory in Arak, and the refitting of this factory to enable it to produce military armored vehicles.

Moreover, Iran will acquire from the CSSR 180 T-54/T-55 combat tanks, which the CSSR is producing under an official license from Moscow. Besides, the CSSR will contribute to developing and manufacturing anti-armor and anti-aircraft missiles, as Iran intends to establish a special factory for this purpose in the city of Esfahan.

Malaysian Foreign Minister Confers With Leaders

Received by Khamene'i

NC1903075989 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 19 Mar 89

[Text] Our president, Mr Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, received Malaysian Foreign Minister Datuk Abu Hassan Omar yesterday afternoon. During this meeting, which was also attended by Foreign Minister Mr Velayati and the ambassadors of the two countries, the Malaysian foreign minister conveyed the warm and friendly greetings of the head of his country, pointed to the Malaysian officials' interest in strengthening and expanding relations with Iran, and called for the deepening of the two countries' cooperation in all fields.

President Khamene'i welcomed the expansion of Iranian-Malaysian relations in various fields, and stated: Active cooperation among the Islamic countries can greatly impact the world of Islam. The president also said: World arrogance is never happy with the establishment of sincere relations among Muslim countries and is always trying to plot against this. Mr Khamene'i continued: The truth is that the world of Islam has common problems, not only in the cultural fields, but also in the economic and political fields and in scientific-technical-commercial exchanges, and one can very well create a great complex which will assist toward greater communication among the Islamic countries because the interests of the Islamic countries lie in these cooperations.

In conclusion, the president referred to the Zionist plot of publishing the insulting book "The Satanic Verses" said said: The Western countries' united position on this was a manifestation of their unity against Islam. However, fortunately—with the suitable reaction by the world of Islam—this was neutralized. This shows that Islamic countries, through cooperation, are capable of adopting common positions against the plots of world arrogance.

Confers With Majlis Speaker

LD1903165289 Tehran IRNA in English 1615 GMT 19 Mar 89

[Text] Tehran, March 19, IRNA—Mutual relations and the resolution of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) were discussed in a meeting between Majlis Speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani and visiting Malaysian Foreign Minister Datuk Haj Abu Hassan Omar today.

The Malaysian official who arrived here Saturday [18 March] expressed hope that ties would expand in various areas and the two countries' would exchange parliamentary delegations to review Islamic issues.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani lauded Kuala Lumpur's immediate reaction against publication of Salman Rushdie's blasphemous book "The Satanic Verses" and said Malaysia was among the first Islamic countries' not to be influenced by Western propaganda.

He termed OIC's stand as "the Islamic countries' greatest move" against the West. "The West fancied Muslim countries' inability to take such a decision but the collective OIC stand was a brilliant manifestation of Islamic identity," he added.

"Indeed, Muslims are proud of the move," said the hojjat ol-eslam and pointed out that Western governments would not like to inform their public of the real contents of the OIC decision on the blasphemous novel authored by the Indian-born English apostate.

The resolution adopted by the 46-member body in Riyadh, finally declared Rushdie an "apostate" and called for a total ban on his Satanic book.

In Islam, all five schools of jurisprudence rule death penalty for apostasy, and accordingly Salman Rushdie was sentenced to death by Imam Khomeyni the leader of the Islamic revolution last February 14.

Towards the end of the meeting, Hashemi-Rafsanjani thanked foreign ministers of Muslim countries for making the bold decision and said "as a matter of fact, they voted for Iran's initiative."

The Malaysian minister arrived here at the head of a political delegation to hold talks on bilateral ties.

Meets With Prime Minister

LD2003111789 Tehran IRNA in English 1030 GMT 20 Mar 89

[Text] Tehran, March 20, IRNA—The visiting Malaysian Foreign Minister Datuk Haj Abu Hassan Omar pointed out Iran's experience in combating drug-trafficking and urged Kuala Lumpur-Tehran cooperation in this field, in a meeting with Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi Sunday.

The idea was welcomed by Musavi who urged international collaborations and exchange of information and experiences between the two countries.

In their talks, Abu Hassan Omar and Musavi also called for the expansion of bilateral relations as well as political, economic and cultural cooperation between the two Muslim countries.

The Malaysian official further emphasized that more contacts should be established between Kuala Lumpur and Tehran.

He conveyed his prime minister's greetings to Musavi and congratulated him on the new Iranian year starting in a few hours.

Musavi referred to the history of mutual relations and the common cultural aspects of the two countries and stressed the need for their expansion. He said mutual cooperation will help stengthen unity between the two Muslim nations.

The prime minister said Tehran and Kuala Lumpur could further their collaboration not only in the Organisation of the Islamic Countries and in the Non-Aligned Movement but also in other international bodies.

Abu Hassan Omar who is heading an economic-political delegation is here since Saturday and has met with President 'Ali Khamene'i and Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati as well as some other ranking Iranian officials so far.

Signs Trade Agreement

LD2103105489 Tehran IRNA in English 0935 GMT 21 Mar 89

[Text] Tehran, March 21, IRNA—Iran and Malaysia signed a trade agreement today calling for expansion of mutual ties.

The agreement was signed by Malaysian Foreign Minister Haj Abu Hassan Omar and Iran's acting commerce minister 'Abdol Hoseyn Vahaji.

The Malaysian minister wound up a four-day official visit to Iran and left here this morning.

The agreement stresses exchange of trade delegations to expand ties and to conclude long-term and short-term contracts in various fields. Abu Hassan Omar described the agreement as a positive move.

According to the agreement, Iran will export crude oil, carpets, nuts, fruits, caviar, medicine, natural sulphide, cast iron, scrap iron, and various kinds of stones to Malaysia.

In return, Malaysia will export to Iran tin, yarn, paper, wood, vegetable oil, palm, natural rubber, tire, raw materials for textiles, chemical fertilisers, chemicals and fatty acids.

The agreement will be enforced after the Majlis approves it.

Vahaji said in remarks before the signing of the agreement that if Islamic countries realised their situation and utilised their possibilities in a desirable manner, they could find their due status in international relations.

Vahaji stressed the idea of forming an Islamic common market and expressed hope that Malaysia too would help provide the grounds for its formation.

Iran and Malaysia have signed several letters of understanding so far but this is the first agreement signed on mutual trade.

In February, minister of economic and financial affairs, Mohammad Javad Iravani took part in the first joint ministerial economic commision in Kuala Lumpar. The two countries then expressed hope to increase the volume of trade ties to over dlrs. 200 million in 1989.

A joint political communique is also to be released at 10:30 GMT today.

Communique Issued on Visit

LD2103110889 Tehran IRNA in English 1036 GMT 21 Mar 89

[Text] Tehran, March 21, IRNA—At the end of a 4-day visit to Iran by Malaysian Foreign Minister Haj Abu Hassan Omar, a joint communique was issued simultaneously in Tehran and Kuala Lumpur today.

During his stay here, Abu Hassan Omar was received by President 'Ali Khamene'i, Majlis Speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, and Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi. He also met with ministers of commerce, and finance and economic affairs. He held talks with his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati "in an atmosphere of sincerity, friendship and mutual understanding."

A trade agreement was signed between the two countries in this visit.

The two foreign ministers exchanged views on all aspects of bilateral relations between Islamic Republic of Iran and Malaysia which include political, economic, cultural, technical and scientific fields, and the other areas of interest. They voiced satisfaction on the "upward trend" of these relations.

The importance of expanding economic cooperation for promotion of relations in all areas was also emphasised by the two sides and they agreed to explore the possibility of cooperation between regional organisations of E.C.O. [Economic Cooperation Organization] and ASEAN.

The foreign minister of Malaysia expressed his country's readiness for participation in reconstruction projects of the Islamic Republic of Iran whenever Iranian party wishes such cooperation.

The two foreign ministers underlined the significance of unity in the Islamic world, to oppose the "world arrogance" and "international Zionism."

Both sides, while welcoming recent announcement made by the Organisation of Islamic Conference on apostasy of the writer of blasphemous "Satanic Verses," urged further opposition of Islamic world against such conspiracies made by arrogant powers.

The two foreign ministers supported the complete implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 598, appreciated efforts made by U.N. secretary general and emphasised on the withdrawal of forces to international borders.

They also underlined the continuation of discussions to settle the existing disputes between Islamic Republic of Iran and Iraq, on the basis of international laws, for the establishment of a lasting and just peace in the Persian Gulf region.

Political dialogues for solving the Cambodian problem were endorsed by both sides and the pull out of foreign forces from Cambodia was also emphasized.

Both sides backed the Islamic uprising of Palestinian people in the occupied territories, and urged the complete liberation of the occupied territories from the Zionists domination.

Both sides supported the struggles of the Lebanese people for their sovereignty, national independence and territorial integrity.

Both sides lauded the brave struggle of Afghan Muslim people in expelling foreign forces from their country and confirmed and supported the efforts of Afghan mujahidin to establish a non-aligned, and independent Islamic state composing of all Afghan Muslim groups and strata.

Iran and Malaysia condemned the apartheid policy imposed by the Pretoria regime and voiced their opposiĺton against all forms of domination and exploitation of nations.

The Malaysian minister extended an official invitation to Velayati to visit Malaysia which was accepted with pleasure, and it was agreed for the visit to be made at a convenient time.

Meets With Afghan Rebel Leader

LD2103140789 Tehran IRNA in English 1357 GMT 21 Mar 89

[Text] Tehran, March 21, IRNA—Visiting Malaysian Foreign Minister Haj Abu Hassan Omar conferred with spokesman of the eight-party Afghan coalition Mohammad Karim Khalili Monday night.

In the meeting, Khalili hailed the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) for granting the Afghanistan seat to the mujahidin. He expected the Kabul regime to fall shortly.

The 46-state OIC had suspended Afghanistan's membership after the Russian invasion and the installing of the Marxist regime in Kabul.

Abu Hassan Omar in reply was optimistic of the total victory of Afghan mujahidin. The Malaysian Minister is here since last Saturday.

Voices 'Satisfaction' With Talks

LD2103130389 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 21 Mar 89

[Text] Abu Hassan Omar, the Malaysian foreign minister, who came to Tehran at the head of the high-ranking delegation from that country, left Tehran for his country this morning, after signing a trade agreement with Iran. Before leaving Tehran, the Malaysian foreign minister gave an interview with our correspondent in which he referred to his meetings with our country's high-ranking officials. He expressed satisfaction with the talks. He said: During this trip, Islamic and international issues of common interest were discussed. The two sides expressed their willingness to expand mutual relations in all fields. He added: My overall impression of the talks in Tehran is good. These talks will have favorable effects on future relations between the two countries.

In an interview with our correspondent, Foreign Minister Velayati answered questions about the outcome of the visit, to which we draw your attention.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Mr Velayati, at the conclusion of the visit by the Malaysian foreign minister, please tell us about the outcome of the visit, and about the documents that were signed.

[Velayati] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The Malaysian foreign minister's trip to the Islamic Republic of Iran was an official one and in response to a previous invitation. During his 4-day stay in Tehran, he held two rounds of talks with me. He was also received by the president and the prime minister. The talks were held in a friendly, brotherly, and amicable atmosphere. At the talks' conslusion, a trade agreement was signed between the Malaysian foreign minister and the Iranian commerce minister.

As two Islamic countries, Iran and Malaysia have had longstanding ideological, cultural, and diplomatic ties (?throughout) the history of Islam. His visit added motivation to the mutual ties. [end recording]

Musavi, Polish Envoy Discuss Ties, 'Verses'

LD1903183989 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 19 Mar 89

[Text] In a meeting with Prime Minister Musavi, the Polish ambassador to Tehran announced his country's position in connection with "The Satanic Verses" and confirmed that the Polish Government will not allow the publication and distribution of the book.

According to a Central News Unit report, he also reported on his country's positive evaluation of Mr Musavi's trip and remarked that the trip had resulted in a new stage in cooperation and expansion of bilateral relations.

At this meeting, Mr Musavi expressed his thanks to the Polish Government for his position on "The Satanic Verses" and reiterated the Islamic Republic of Iran's decisive position in this connection. The prime minister also expressed his gratitude to the Polish Government for its hospitality and described his trip to that country as successful. He called for implementing the protocol signed by the two countries' representatives.

Velayati Receives SFRY, DPRK Ambassadors

LD1903185789 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 19 Mar 89

[Text] The Yugoslav ambassador to Tehran met and conferred with Foreign Minister Velayati today at the end of his mission. At this meeting, the Yugoslav ambassador reviewed improving trends in bilateral relations in the past few years and described President Khameni's visit to that country as a turning point in relations.

Mr Velayati expressed the hope that, with regard to recent world developments, the nonaligned countries next summit in Belgrade will manage to take positive steps in connection with furthering these developments.

The new DPRK ambassador to Tehran met with Mr Velayati and submitted his credentials to him. The DPRK ambassador praised the revolutionary people of Iran's resistance and announced his country's readiness for cooperation in all fields. Mr Velayati then remarked on the very warm and friendy bilateral relations and expressed the hope that these relations will expand even more.

Commentary on France's Ban on Demonstrations

LD2003203889 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 20 Mar 89

[Political commentary]

[Excerpts] The (?terms) of the Islamic Conference's support for the Islamic Republic of Iran's decisive stances in relation to the plot on the publication of the book "The Satanic Verses" by Salman Rushdie, as well as in the conditions where Muslims throughout the world have raised their voice of protest and by holding protest motivated demonstrations and marches have expressed their hatred and anger towards the apostate author and his British supporters, dispatches report that the French Government, in a regretable measure, has prevented a march by the Muslims in that country, who were to show their protest to the publication of the blasphemous book of Salman Rushdie in a peaceful way. [sentence as heard]

The march, which had been organized by the Islamic groups residing in France, was banned without offering any justifiable and acceptable reason by the French police. This incomprehensible move by France not only surprised the people living in Lyons where peaceful domonstrations were to be held, but on a wider level posed this question as to what extent the French Government is true in its claims in relation to the freedom of ideas. [passage omitted]

This move also shows that the French Government has not succeeded in showing its independence of action towards Britain's anti-Islamic plot. Independent action which will certainly include France's national interests, and will effect France's future relations with the world of Islam. [sentence as heard]

There is no doubt about Britain's opposition to Islam. The world Muslims consider Britain's support for the publication of the book "The Satanic Verses" as part of a series of plots hatched by this country against the world of Islam, and hence they will show a proper reaction to it, in the same way that demonstrations and protests have been staged against the British Government during this period and other European countries—though some of them have failed to comprehend reality—have not been made subject to these demonstrations and protests.

The fact that the world Muslims, despite the strong anger which they feel for the plot on the publication of Salman Rushdie's book, have looked at the other European countries differently from Britain indicates their growing awareness and comprehension of the depth of the plots and shows that from the viewpoint of Muslims the focal point of the plot hatched against Islam is London, and not Paris or anywhere else.

Now if this realistic view does not exist (?about) France, and if the French officials do not comprehend differences with such vividness, and intentionally attempt to make themselves an accomplice of Britain, they must naturally think of the consequences of Muslims' wrath, too.

Editorial on Participation at ICO Meeting

PM2003173589 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 11 Mar 89 p 2

[Editorial by Amir 'Ali Mas'udi: "What Are the Goals of the Riyadh Conference?"]

[Excerpts] Riyadh on Monday will host representatives of 46 governments in the 18th ICO meeting. For the first time in years, this conference become important. There are two reasons for this. First, the subject that the Islamic countries will discuss and perhaps pass a resolution on—they want to condemn the West's publication of "The Satanic Verses." The second reason is Iran's presence at the meeting. Iran boycotted the previous two meetings in Baghdad and Kuwait and, at the Amman conference, left the meeting to protest the disrespectful behavior of the Jordanian Government. [passage omitted]

Mulsims have always ignored the ICO because of its political makeup, the leanings of its participants, its historical directions, and the ultraconservative policies it has adopted. This is why it has not only not solved any of the Muslim problems, but it has gradually become a problem itself. The Riyadh conference is being held at a time when the issues of Afghanistan, Israel, Lebanon, hostilities, and border disputes between Arab countries, and Iraq's excuses with regard to Resolution 598 still lie ahead.

This organization in its 1970 meeting in Pakistan presented major plans to establish economic and cultural organizations to achieve unity among Muslims. It even passed resolutions for these actions, but it still has not been able to form such bodies as an Islamic news agency, bank, common market, research center, or university.

Riyadh is holding the conference at a time when the participants' debts make up about 10 percent of the entire credit market of European banks. Meanwhile, major world banks continue to exist by depending on petrodollars from those same countries while adding to their huge profits by granting loans to needy nations.

The situation is even worse in the cultural area. Islamic countries presently receive news about themselves from non-Muslims. Islamic nations have the biggest share of the world's oil exports, but they have not reached a coordinated policy in this regard.

Facing such issues and unfinished tasks, it seems the ICO wants Iran—now considered a major regional power—to participate in the Riyadh meeting in order to resolve some of these problems. The new secretary general of the ICO in a meeting several days ago with Iranian officials urged that relations between Iran and other Islamic countries be expanded. Also, this week the Saudi foreign minister announced Riyadh's desire for friendly relations with Iran. Despite what has happened in the past, the conference members are fully aware of the importance of Iran's participation.

The anger of the Muslim masses over the West's disrespect comprises a huge movement against the interests of Western governments and their reactionary Arab friends in the region. Both the West and the compromising reactionary regimes undoubtedly want to condemn the book as insulting, thereby washing their hands of the affair and declaring it a closed file. This is why they are trying to sully the imam's direct edict by speaking of freedom of speech and interference in British affairs. They want to isolate the Muslim masses. They want to guide the political aspect of this historical insult toward decisions made by governments at conferences and meetings between political figures who lean toward the West. The issue of Salman Rushdie's trial and punishemnt is now like a winning weapon in the hands of 1 billion Muslims whose love for Islam has been insulted.

The Muslims' anger toward the aggressor cannot be ended by decisions reached by governments in Riyadh. It cannot be neatly grouped in organizations and bodies. This anger has been cultivated by 50 million Muslims in Iran for the past 10 years. It has spread throughout the world. It cannot fit into a resolution passed at the ICO meeting. Iran's presence, especially at the level of foreign minister, even if designed to reject unwise decisions, lessens Iran's value and dignity.

The ICO's request that Iran establish friendly ties raises the alarms bells that, God forbid, the break in ties between Britain and Iran, which was done from a point of strength, would end up being reversed by third party mediator governments—without the world's Muslims having attained the goals.

One item facing the ICO with regard to the Rushdie affair is the international flavor of the objections, which cannot be linked to Iran alone. Because of this, Iran's presence—keeping in mind our country's anti-imperialist past—in such a compromising conference is not in the revolution's interest. However, it would be acceptable to send observers to participate in the Riyadh conference and to prepare reports on the work of the meeting. This would not have the same negative effect as sending a delegation at the foreign minister level.

Editorial on Rushdie Book, 'American Islam'

PM2003173789 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian
11 Mar 89 p 2

[Editorial by 'Abbas Salimi Namin: "Let Us Not Confuse the Pure Islam of Muhammad and American Islam"]

[Excerpts] A considerable softening of attitude has occurred among the promoters of "The Satanic Verses" in their admission that the book is insulting to things considered holy by Muslims. This is seen as a major victory for the Muslims, but one has to look at how this victory was achieved.

The West's aim undoubtedly was to destroy a culture whose growth endangered all its colonialist goals. Western animosity toward Islam has been the main cause of this culture's growth, so it is necessary to look into the matter cautiously. [passage omitted]

It is clear to all that with the involvement of the Muslim masses, the conspiracy that—according to the OBSERVETEUR magazine—had taken 5 years to complete at a cost of 9 million francs, had to be stopped because of the fear that the borders between pure Islam and American Islam would become even more defined. Do the followers of pure Islam and American Islam have the same aim in defending the religion that has now been attacked by the West, its prophet insulted? The puppets of American Islam for years have been supporting those who have now insulted the prophet, at the expense of degrading their own people, just to keep their regimes in power. The recent victory has been achieved with the efforts of those same Muslims who have been oppressed for years by their rulers, who are followers and preachers of American Islam.

Of course, it was the duty of the Iranian Government to warn about the silence of the Islamic governments and to invite them to take a unified position. Although it was known from before that Fahd, King Husayn, King Hassan, and so forth would not take a step beyond that taken by London. They too condemned "The Satanic Verses," saying it insulted Islam. They also banned it in their countries.

What is interesting in all this is the tune being sung by the West. Aimed at a certain target, it claims that Iran needs other Islamic countries when it comes to the Rushdie affair. For example, UPI on 6 March, a few days before the ICO meeting, said: It is obvious that Iran needs the support of other Muslim countries when it comes to the Rushdie affair. The French news agency said on 4 March: Oman has intensified its contacts with Iranian leaders to convince them to take part in the ICO meeting.

It is clear that the West has made two mistakes in its latest failure. First, it made the Muslims aware of its pre-planned goals. Second, it has itself defined the borders between pure Islam and American Islam. With its latest round of utterances, the West is trying to confuse the issue, to prevent the masses from losing faith in their puppet leaders.

Iran must take part in the ICO meeting to warn the rulers of Islamic countries of the consequences they face if they do not honor Islamic jurisprudence against those who have insulted the Koran and the prophet. Thus far it has done this by sending delegations to countries who are a bit more independent. This does not mean, however, that we see any difference between those who martyred pilgrims in the house of God on charges of shouting slogans against these same people who are attacking Islam now and those who want to cut off the roots of Islam with their insults.

Today, the borders between pure Islam and American Islam have been defined. The people have seen this clearly, with the support of the imam and under the harshest economic pressures. Nothing can confuse these boundaries now and nothing can erase from the minds of the region's Muslims the treason and the silence of those followers of the West in this area.

Editorial on Unity Among Mujahidin Alliances

NC2103140989 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 14 Mar 89 p 2

[Editorial: "Unity a Must for Mujahidin Alliances" from the "Opinion" column]

[Text] According to the reports reaching here heavy battles are still raging in Jalalabad, Afghanistan. Thousands of citizens are reported to have fled the war-ravaged city to other regions in the country and Pakistan, thus joining the millions of other Afghan refugees with an obscure future and all other immense problems of a homeless living.

After the pullout of Soviet troops on Feb. 15, this has been the first extensive invasion of Afghan mujahidin of a big city. It is in fact the mujahidin's first experience of a military push to liberate a big city after the Soviets evacuated the occupied land.

The invasion coincides with a foreign ministerial meeting of the Organization of Islamic Countries (OIC) in Riyadh where the Afghan issue is among the main topics to be discussed. At this meeting, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia and likely to call for the recognition of a mujahidin government headed by Sibghatullah Mojaddadi. Saudi Arabia, Sudan and Bahrain have so far recognized the interim government. Islamabad has also expressed its willingness to go along.

Iran's stance in this respect however, is still rather unclear. Perhaps the main reason behind Iran's nonrecognition of the mujahidin interim government has been due to the rift between Iran-based eight-party coalition and the Pakistan-based seven-party alliance and their failure to reach an agreement.

Both groups, however, share common ideas on the systems of the future government in Afghanistan. Besides, the Soviet-backed regime is still holding power in Kabul, on shaky grounds though. As such, all-out cooperation between the two groups is a must if they want to succeed in closing in on and eventually liberating big cities. To conquer Kabul in particular, where the majority of the populace is Shi'a and who also control the local economy, the two groups should step up efforts to cement their unity and solidarity in this Islamic and national struggle.

It seems, by and large, that the move by the eight-party coalition to have left the shura has not been a proper one. The two sides should leave no stone unturned to quickly reach an agreement and understanding and abandon short-sighted courses which will only result in further skirmishes. They should not allow disagreement on their proposed number of ministers to drag them towards internal jousting.

There is another point that should not go unnoticed. During the past nine years Iran and Pakistan have been the two most powerful supporters of the mujahidin cause. The two Muslim countries also provided shelter to over five million Afghan refugees. As such unity in views on Afghanistan should also be the order of the day between Tehran and Islamabad. At this criticial juncture when the revolution in Afghanistan is about to triumph, Tehran and Islamabad should not allow other countries which were never involved seriously in the popular Afghan revolution to act as big brothers to the mujahidin.

As such it also seems that Iran's vacillation in recognizing the interim government in Afghanistan is not in the interests of the Islamic Republic.

Majlis Speaker's Nomination as President Viewed

TA2103191289 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 1630 GMT 21 Mar 89

[Text] 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani's nomination for the Presidency by the reactionary wing of the militant clergy has been viewed with importance in Tehran's informed circles. Those in the know say this development has shown that the reactionary members of the militant clergy society also now understand that the policy of rapprochement with the Eastern bloc is not beneficial, and that they must establish economic, industrial, and financial ties with Western countries. For this reason they chose Hashemi-Rafsanjani, who allegedly supports this notion, as their candidate for the presidential elections even though many of them, including 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi and Mohammad Musavi Kho'iniha, strongly oppose Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

It is being said in informed circles in Tehran that mullahs belonging to the reactionary wing of the militant clergy have decided to do away with Ayatollah Montazeri before Ruhollah Khomeyni's death. According to our information, these reactionary mullahs, who see their position as shaky in the event of Khomeyni's death, have decided to inflict the same fate on Ayatollah Montazeri as they previously did on Grand Ayatollah Shari'atmadari when they removed him from the arena of politics and religion.

Nepal

Indian Removal of Trade Provisos 'Retrogressive'

BK1803074689 Hong Kong AFP in English 0734 GMT 18 Mar 89

[By Kedar Man Singh]

[Text] Kathmandu, March 18 (AFP)—Nepal has called a letter from India removing special trade arrangements a "surprise" and criticized an Indian trade and transit proposal as retrogressive.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said Friday that the Nepalese Government had received a letter from New Delhi confirming the expiration of an Indo-Nepalese treaty on trade and an agreement on cooperation to control unauthorized trade. The letter said both agreements would run out on March 23, the same day a bilateral treaty on transit is also due to expire.

The spokesman noted that the two governments had initialled both a new treaty of trade and a new agreement on cooperation to control unauthorized trade in New Delhi in September. He said Kathmandu was awaiting formal signing of the new agreements and an invitation to do so had already been sent to New Delhi. "India's letter therefore came as a surprise serving as a notice of abrogation of an arrangement already made in good faith," the spokesman said.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman also revealed that India had proposed fresh negotiations be started on a "unified" treaty of trade and transit in addition to the agreement on control of unauthorized trade.

The spokesman described the Indian unified treaty proposal as putting back the hands of time by 11 years. "We feel that while 'trade' is a periodic arrangement between two parties in question, 'transit' is a necessary permanent condition for the international trade of any landlocked country," he said.

Nepal, a landlocked Kingdom of 18.2 million inhabitants including more than 3.5 million people of Indian origin, is India's third largest trade partner after Japan and the Soviet Union. The trade and transit treaties detail Nepal's transit rights for trade with third countries outside India through maritime routes.

The spokesman emphasized that the transit issue should be dealt with separately and on a long term basis. "Even at this late stage we would be prepared to discuss future trade arrangements with India if New Delhi so desires," the spokesman said. "No element that harms mutual respect, equality and reciprocity of interests should be encouraged."

Two-way trade during the 1987-88 fiscal year ending mid-July registered 6.2 billion rupees (244.2 million dollars) with India enjoying a trade surplus of 3.23 billion rupees (127.2 million dollars). During the first half of the current fiscal year the trade imbalance already stood at 1.68 billion rupees (66.26 million dollars) in India's favor, according to official figures.

Referring to recent Indian press reports suggesting a worsening of traditionally friendly Indo-Nepalese ties, the spokesman said: "Even the contents of a letter from one government to another have been reported in Indian papers."

"There seems to be no doubt that these reports and articles in Indian papers are officially inspired," the spokesman said. "It is desirable in these circumstances, to keep the people fully informed of the bare facts of the matter."

Panic Buying Ensues

BK2003071489 Hong Kong AFP in English 0640 GMT 20 Mar 89

[By Kedar Man Singh]

[Text] Kathmandu, March 20 (AFP)—Residents here were scrambling to buy kerosene and rock salt as vehicles waited in mile-long queues for gas ahead of India's unilateral move to terminate trade and transit treaties on March 23.

India decided on March 1 to withdraw preferential market facilities previously provided to Nepal for 66 industrial products. It then said it would stop supplying Nepal from March 31 with cooking oil, rock salt and refined petroleum products and diesel oil imported by Kathmandu.

India has been supplying Nepal each year with 160,000 tonnes of cooking coal, 165,000 tonnes of rock salt and between 240,000 and 260,000 tonnes of petroleum products.

Nepalese trade officials have said the Indian decisions would virtually cripple the Nepalese industries affected.

Nepal has already suffered from serious power shading because of poor site selection for a multi-million dollar hydro-power project, and another similar project is not expected to generate power until the end of 1989.

India's short notice of the withdrawals gave landlocked Nepal only six weeks to build up emergency stocks of kerosene, aviation fuel, petroleum, diesel fuel and rock salt.

The looming termination of supplies has hit both poor and rich alike. Some people have clashed with kerosene and salt sellers because they allege the vendors sold their supplies to hotels and restaurants for a higher profit.

Police have been posted at stores selling petroleum products and local markets to prevent any trouble.

Kathmandu said Saturday that it had received a letter from India confirming the removal of special trade arrangements after the expiration of a treaty on trade and of an agreement on cooperation to control unauthorized trade. It called the letter a "surprise" and criticized a unified Indian proposal on trade and transit as retrogressive.

India responded the same day by saying it would renegotiate the bilateral agreements expiring on March 23 only if Nepal showed concern for Indian interests.

The Indo-Nepal Treaty on Trade expired on March 23 last year and was extended twice by six months.

On Sunday, high-level Nepalese officials for the first time started to reveal the nature of the special Indian trade arrangements.

The officials said that the Indo-Nepalese trade relationship is based on mutual interest but was largely in India's favor and in real terms did not give Nepal any special accomodations.

"Historically, the trade relationship between India and Nepal has played an important role in the overall trade regime of the respective countries," one official said.

Nepal, a kingdom of 18.2 million inhabitants, is India's third largest trade partner after Japan and the Soviet Union.

But according to the officials, trade figures show India has enjoyed a massive trade surplus since the original Indo-Nepalese Trade Treaty was signed in 1978.

Between 1978 and 1987 Nepal's annual exports to India averaged 1.085 billion rupees ($43.4 million) against average imports of 3.005 billion rupees ($118.32 million).

During the first half of the current fiscal year ending in mid-July the two-way trade imbalance already stood at 1.68 billion rupees ($66.26 million) in India's favor, the officials said.

The transit treaties detail Nepal's transit rights for trade with third countries outside India through maritime routes while the trade treaty provides for the free flow of goods and exemption of duties and quantity restrictions on primary product imports.

Indo-Nepalese relations have taken a plunge since Kathmandu last year purchased from China a large quantity of weapons, including anti-aircraft guns and medium-range surface-to-surface missiles.

Pakistan

Booster Rocket Developed for Satellite Launcher

BK2103143089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1354 GMT 21 Mar 89

[Text] Karachi, Pakistan, March 21 (AFP)—Pakistan has manufactured a rocket booster as the first stage of a planned multi-stage launching system that will put a Pakistani satellite in a low earth orbit.

Selim Mehmud, chairman of the Pakistan Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO) said here Monday that the booster had been designed and built by Pakistani scientists without any foreign assistance.

The official news agency APP said the booster would be test fired by mid-summer or early autumn. Its range is reported to be 400 miles (640 kilometres), similar to that of a rocket test-fired at a beach near Karachi in January.

SUPARCO had earlier announced that the first Pakistan-made satellite was ready for launching. Officials said that it would be put in orbit in collaboration with a Western nation in about a year.

APP quoting informed sources said that SUPARCO scientists were also working to manufacture the propellant fuel needed to power the satellite rocket booster. It said that SUPARCO was forging ahead with its space research programme on the basis of self-reliance, and the development of an independent multi-stage satellite launching system was a part of the programme.

Meanwhile, the mass circulation Urdu daily JANG reported Tuesday that Pakistan has developed a surface-to-air missile with a range of up to eight kilometres (five miles). There was no official confirmation of the report.

Manufacturing Program Continues

BK2103052689 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 21 Mar 89

[Text] Pakistan has manufactured several types of rockets which can carry scientific equipment to considerable altitudes. The SUPARCO [Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission] chairman has said in Islamabad that the rocket manufacturing program continues and a powerful booster will be tested this year for launching heavy scientific equipment into upper space. The objective of the program is not only to conduct experiments in space but also to launch light satellites into suborbital flights.

Defense Equipment Exports To Reach $310 Million

BK2103150889 Karachi NAWA-I WAQT in Urdu 6 Mar 89 p 1

[By unidentified correspondent]

[Text] Lahore, 5 March—Pakistan will export defense equipment worth about $310 million this year, almost double the amount of such exports last year. It is remarkable that in its 1st year of arms exports, India had earned $45 million, which was much less than the arms exports earnings of China and Pakistan. Last year, China and Pakistan had exported defense equipment worth about $2 billio. [sentence as published] It may be recalled that the exports earning target of the Pakistan Ordnance Factory, which was set at $35 million 2 years ago, has constantly increased over the years.

Bhutto Denies Involvement in Afghanistan

BK2103084489 Hong Kong AFP in English 0805 GMT 21 Mar 89

[Text] New Delhi, March 21 (AFP)—Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has denied Soviet and Afghan charges that Pakistani soldiers were fighting alongside Moslem rebels on Afghan soil.

"Not a single Pakistani soldier has crossed the border, and not a single Pakistani soldier will cross the border," Ms Bhutto said in an interview with the INDIAN EXPRESS newspaper published here Tuesday [21 March].

"This is an Afghan war and we do not want to get involved in an Afghan civil war," Ms Bhutto said in the wide-ranging interview with the multi-edition Indian daily conducted in Islamabad Saturday [18 March] and Sunday [19 March].

The Soviet-backed Kabul government has accused Pakistan of planning and equipping a mujahidin offensive on the eastern city of Jalalabad which began more than two weeks ago and has cost thousands of casualties, according to reports from Kabul and mujahidin sources in Pakistan.

The Kabul government has said that up to 3,000 Pakistani Militia were taking part in the assault launched on March 5, 18 days after Soviet troops completed a withdrawal from Afghanistan.

Soviet Ambassador to Afghanistan Yuliy Vorontsov repeated the accusations Thursday [16 March]. "It is an established fact that Pakistani troops are fighting on Afghan soil," he said.

Ms Bhutto said she thought Mr. Vorontsov "has his reasons" for levelling the accusation, but his statements "are certainly not based on fact."

"My guess is that (it) is an indication of the weakness of the Kabul regime," she told the EXPRESS. "They know that they cannot hold out, but rather than say they have failed they would like to put the blame elsewhere."

Ms Bhutto also spoke about Islamabad's Afghan policy in general, its controversial nuclear programme, Salman Rushdie's novel "The Satanic Verses" which many Moslems have alleged is blasphemous, as well as ties with India and the Soviet Union.

The premier said Pakistan would consider recognising the mujahidin interim government "as larger areas of Afghanistan come under its control."

"We certainly wish the (interim) Afghan government well," Ms Bhutto said. "We have noted that it is headed by a moderate, (Sibghatullah) Mojaddedi, and that despite all the claims to the contrary the leaders of the alliance came together in a remarkable display of unity." The interim government was set up during a meeting of mujahidin representatives in Pakistan in February.

Speaking about Islamabad's nuclear programme, which neighbour India says is weapons-oriented, Ms Bhutto reaffirmed that Pakistan had no intention of making a nuclear bomb.

"Pakistan does not believe in nuclear proliferation," she said. "We want to strive to free our region from a nuclear arms race... therefore we have no desire to make a nuclear bomb."

Ms Bhutto said she wanted to promote friendly relations with India, with which Pakistan has fought three wars. "But it is a question of moving step by step to boost confidence between the people of the two countries."

She would not commit herself on the issue of "The Satanic Verses," which has sparked violent protests in India and Pakistan in which more than 20 people died.

Ms Bhutto refused to either criticise or back Iranian spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's call for the execution of Indian-born Mr. Rushdie, a British national, on the grounds that the novel blasphemed Islam. Mr. Rushdie has been in hiding in Britain under police protection since the ayatollah's call.

"I don't know how much Moslems have to gain from keeping this whole Rushdie affair alive," Ms Bhutto said. "If you repeat a blasphemy you commit a blasphemy and every time the Moslem fundamentalists have raised this issue it would seem to be that they are also committing a blasphemy by giving Rushdie's novel and its contents greater publicity."

She said the pull-out of Soviet troops from Afghanistan had improved prospects of good relations with Moscow and expressed admiration for Kremlin chief Mikhail Gorbachev's reform plans.

Iranian Air Force Chief Arrives on 5-Day Visit

LD1903101189 Tehran IRNA in English 0815 GMT 19 Mar 89

[Text] Islamabad, March 19, IRNA—The Iranian Air Force Commander Brigadier General Mansur Satari arrived here Saturday afternoon on a five-day official visit.

Satari was welcomed at Islamabad Airport by his Pakistani counterpart Air Chief Marshal Hakimullah and several other military commanders.

During his stay in Pakistan, he is due to tour the country's air bases as well as the Air Force institutions and hold talks with Air Force Commanders.

The senior military official is also due to meet with the Pakistani President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and with the Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

Meets With Joint Chiefs Chairman

BK2003113589 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 20 Mar 89

[Text] The commander of the Iranian Air Force, Brigadier General Mansur Satari, had a meeting in Rawalpindi today with the chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, Admiral Iftikhar Ahmad Sirohey. They discussed professional matters. The Iranian Air Force commander also visited the headquarters of the Air Defense Command where he was presented with a detailed picture of Pakistan's air defense system.

Receives Military Award

BK2103154889 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 21 Mar 89

[Text] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan today conferred Hilal-i Imtiaz military award on the Iranian Air Force commander, Brigadier General Mansur Satari, in Islamabad today. The Iranian commander's services for strengthening the ties of friendship and cooperation between the Air Forces of the two countries were noted during the occasion.

Malaysian Army Chief Arrives on 10-Day Visit

BK1703054589 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 17 Mar 89

[Text] Tan Sri Yaacob Bin Mohamed Zain, the chief of staff of the Malaysian Army, arrived in Karachi yesterday on a 10-day visit to Pakistan at the invitation of General Mirza Aslam Beg, Army chief of staff.

Calls on President Ishaq Khan

BK2203084589 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 22 Mar 89

[Text] The chief of staff of the Malaysian Army, General Tan Sri Yaacob bin Mohamed Zain, called on the president, Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan, in Islamabad today. The president said Pakistan highly valued its very cordial relations with Malaysia. He said his presence at the Pakistan Day joint services parade tomorrow would signify the special nature of relations between the two countries.

Gen Yaacob thanked the president and reciprocated the feelings about the [words indistinct] further promotion of bilateral relations.

Meets Prime Minister 21 Mar

BK2103160189 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 21 Mar 89

[Text] General Tan Sri Yaacob Bin Mohamed Zain, the chief of staff of the Malaysian Army, called on Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto in Rawalpindi today. Genaral Mirza Aslam Beg, chief of the Army Staff, was also present on the occasion.

Finnish Trade Minister Reveals Embassy Plans

BK2103113189 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 21 Mar 89

[Text] Finland is interested in providing assistance for modernization and expansion of the Pakistan steel [mill]. This was stated by the Finnish minister for trade and industry, Mr Ilkka Suominen, during his meeting with the members of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Lahore today. He said the two countries could also collaborate in mineral processing for which there has been great demand in Finland.

The meeting was informed that Finland would be opening its embassy in Islamabad this year, which would help boost mutually beneficial economic relations between the two countries.

Agreement on $6.4 Million Loan

BK2003114189 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 20 Mar 89

[Text] Finland is to provide a soft loan of over $6.4 million to Pakistan for upgradation and sanitization of diagnostic laboratory services project. An agreement to this effect was signed between the two countries in Islamabad today. The loan will be utilized for the first phase of the project, as well as for establishment of five electromedical workshops, training of laboratory technicians, and a phased transfer of technology.

Sindis, Police Clash Over Bihari Settlement

BK2103124589 Hong Kong AFP in English 1231 GMT 21 Mar 89

[Text] Karachi, Pakistan, March 21 (AFP)—Troops were sent to restore order in southern districts of this city Tuesday after local Sindhi nationalists went on the rampage after clashing with police, witnesses said.

Several people were injured in the clashes, which came after police prevented supporters of the Sindh National Alliance (SNA) from staging a rally to protest official proposals to allow members of the Bihari community in Bangladesh to settle in Pakistan.

Rioters damaged and burnt vehicles, including a military jeep, attacked shops belonging to Urdu-speeking Muhajir immigrants from India and threw stones at police, who had tried to disperse them with baton charges and tear-gas, the witnesses said.

Tension had been high in Karachi, Pakistan's largest city, since armed men gunned down 14 people Saturday bringing the death toll in ethnic violence here to at least 24 since March 10, according to police and hospital sources.

Pakistan President Ghulam Ishaq Khan said Monday that the government would give compensation of 50,000 rupees (2,500 U.S. dollars) to the families of each of the 14 people killed here Saturday.

Indefinite curfews were clamped on several areas of the city after Saturday's violence and troops were moved into Karachi's Eastern, Central and Western Districts.

The army was deployed in southern areas following Tuesday's clashes, witnesses said, while officials said the situation was under control.

The latest violence erupted after the SNA tried to hold a rally, in defiance of a ban on the gathering, before the Sindh Provincial Assembly building to protest proposals to let Biharis stranded in Bangladesh settle in the province.

The SNA is concerned that a new influx of immigrants will make the indigenous Sindhi community an ethnic minority in the province.

Sources said many of the protestors had come to the provincial capital from rural areas.

Police cordoned of the assembly building and tried to disperse the protestors with tear gas and baton charges.

The demonstrators led by SNA leaders Hamida Khoro, Abdul Hafiz Pirzada, a former federal minister, and Senator Ejaz Ahmed Jatoi, retaliated by throwing stones at the police, who fired into the air in an attempt to quell the riot, witnesses said.

Police said the rampaging mob burnt a gas station and about eight vehicles and damaged shops, banks and office buildings.

Witnesses reported clashes between the Sindhis and Muhajirs when the former attacked shops owned by the immigrants.

An estimated 250,000 people migrated from eastern India's Bihar State to East Pakistan after independence from Britain in 1947. Many of the Biharis sided with Islamabad in the 1971 war of independence that led to the creation of Bangladesh and have since refused to accept Bangladeshi nationality.

The Muhajirs, the majority community in Karachi and the Sindh city of Hyderabad, have supported calls for the Biharis to be allowed to settle here.

Sri Lanka

70 LTTE Men, 15 Gurkhas Die in Recent Battle

BK2103132889 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1230 GMT 21 Mar 89

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 21 Mar (LANKAPUVATH)—Seventy Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam [LTTE] terrorists and 15 Indian soldiers were killed in "Operation Baaz" [Falcon] conducted by the Indian Peacekeeping Force [IPKF] against the LTTE earlier this month. Initially, two companies of the crack Indian Army regiment, the Gurkha Rifles, in "Operation Baaz" on a reconsaissance mission in the jungles of Nittikaikulam, bordering the Nayaru Lagoon in the north-east district of Mullaittivu, had encountered LTTE terrorists. The Gurkhas having run short of ammunition had pulled out their famed kukris [daggers] and fought the terrorists until reinforcements arrived. The brave Gurkha commander Col.V.K. Bakshi had died in the intense fighting on the night of March 2.

Reinforcements had then arrived and by March 7, seventy LTTE terrorists had been killed by the IPKF, while 15 IPKF soldiers were killed and 30 wounded, states the leading Indian journal "FRONTLINE" in its latest edition (March 18-31) monitored by LANKAPUVATH.

The "FRONTLINE" in a description of the battle states, "having achieved the task of securing the elections, the IPKF returned to jungle bashing" in earnest. However, the action near Nayaru was more of an accident than a planned operation. Sometime in March, the IPKF had planned its "Operation Baaz" to continue the task of clearing the Nittikaikulam jungles. But, on March 2, two companies of the Gurkha Rifles, freshly inducted into Sri Lanka, set out on a "reconnaissance in depth" from their base south-east of Alampil. They had rations and ammunition for 48 hours, but were not expecting any major clash. The previous day a tractor-trolley loaded with a rubber dinghy and an engine had been seized in a roadblock. Now the IPKF commanders wanted to see the lay of the jungle. As the Gurkhas moved through the jungle, they came under fire. The fighting intensified. In the first flush of fighting five IPKF personnel were killed while the number of LTTE casualties was not clear. The IPKF figured out that it had stumbled onto the screen defences of the main camp that could be a good 10 to 12 km behind the positions. Normally the LTTE would have melted into the jungles, but the fact that it stood and fought indicated that this was the defence bastion of an important inner position.

As night fell, the fighting became somewhat confused although intense. Meanwhile, Col. V.K. Bakshi, the intrepid commander of the Gurkhas who was leading the reconnaissance party, managed to send back some men to obtain reinforcements. Through the night, as the Gurkhas ran out of ammunition, they drew their favourite weapon, the kukris, and waded into the LTTE positions, to be confronted by Tigers.

By the crack of dawn, reinforcements were sent in and helicopter sorties to assist the Gurkhas mounted. The battle continued, with the LTTE confronting the advancing Gurkhas along a 4 km front. Sometime in the night, Col. Bakshi was seriously wounded. He died later.

At the same time, another company from a position south of the lagoon was sent in to relieve the Gurkhas, but it ran into densely booby trapped trails. Late in the afternoon, a team of paracommandos was sent to avoid this area and move in further, but they too ran into an LTTE screen position. By now about five battalions of the IPKF had ringed the area and were moving into the lagoons shores. By March 7, when the area was secured, it was estimated that some 70 LTTE personnel had been killed.

The main group, which may have included Prabhakaran, melted away. In three phases of Operation Checkmate, 44 LTTE personnel were killed and 57 wounded in the Nittikaikulam area, here, in three days, the LTTE had lost considerably more. The IPKF lost 15 lives, and 30 were wounded.

As the IPKF command realised that it had stumbled on a major LTTE concentration, reinforcements were flown in by Indian Air Force MI-8 helicopters. After a two day lull, the IPKF resumed its operations, which were further intensified on March 9. By the middle of March, almost one full division of the IPKF was conducting search operations in the biggest action since Operation Checkmate.

Sinhalese Rebel-Sponsored Strike Hits Colombo

BK2203045089 Hong Kong AFP in English 0434 GMT 22 Mar 89

[Text] Colombo, March 22 (AFP)—A Sinhalese rebel-sponsored strike hit parts of Colombo and Sri Lankan provinces Wednesday, keeping most buses off the streets and causing shops to close, officials and residents said. The anti-government Janatha Vimukti Peramuna (JVP, or People's Liberation Front) issued the strike call Tuesday to protest alleged killings by Indian and Sri Lankan security forces.

Officials said troops and police remained on maximum alert to prevent an outbreak of violence as the strike spread to Colombo's main wholesale trade centre of Pettah.

Heavily-armed soldiers and policemen guarded key positions in the city and mobile patrols were intensified, officials said.

Residents in the central hill capital of Kandy said fewer people went to work and streets were deserted as shops remained shut. In Colombo, a few shops were open while some were partly open, apparently uncertain whether to join the strike.

"We are waiting to see what others will do. We don't want to be the only shop to open and then be hit by the JVP," a shopkeeper here said.

The JVP has successfully staged similar strikes in the past and crippled essential services, obliging security forces to force open businesses. The group has also attacked traders who failed to respond to their calls.

The JVP distributed leaflets in Southern Province and parts of the capital urging people to strike and put up black flags protesting against killings by security forces.

The leaflets said the action was to protest the "genocide" by Indian troops in the island's Tamil-populated north and east and killings in majority Sinhalese areas by local forces.

Killings by a vigilante group and suspected JVP men left at least 73 people dead in two days of renewed violence since Sunday.

The JVP is violently opposed to the government and a July 1987 Indo-Sri Lanka peace accord under which New Delhi has some 45,000 to 50,000 troops in northern and eastern regions.

Situation Reported 'Quiet'

BK2203113589 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1056 GMT 22 Mar 89

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 22 Mar (LANKAPUVATH)—Police told LANKAPUVATH the situation was quiet throughout the country today and no serious incidents had been reported. Police said, a number of business establishments and shops were closed in several areas due to having received threats of reprisals from subversives, protesting against the slaying of their cadres by anti subversive vigilante groups.

Police said the Sri Lanka Transport Board operated its services in all areas while private buses operated in many areas, including the trunk routes. The railways too operated its services on its normal routes.

Meanwhile, the security forces took into custody 59 suspected subversives at Bandaragama in the western province district of Kalutara Monday [20 March]. Security forces also recovered two guns at Kakandura, Matara, along with a quantity of ammunition.

Three persons engaged in the manufacture of a bomb were injured yesterday when the bomb exploded prematurely in a premises in Pettah.

22 Killed in Strike Violence

BK2203164289 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 22 Mar 89

[Text] In Sri Lanka, twenty-two people are reported killed in violence during the general strike called by the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna [JVP—People's Liberation Front] extremists today. Agencies report that life was disrupted in most of the central and southern parts of the island. The JVP extremists attacked buses and exploded bombs to enforce the strike. Five state transport buses were set on fire. According to reports at least three bombs exploded in the suburbs of the capital Colombo.

PTI [PRESS TRUST OF INDIA] reports that the strike was total in the Southern Province and partial in other Sinhalese majority areas of the island. The strike has no impact whatsoever in the North Eastern Province. The strike call was given in protest against the killing of 14 people in Anuradhapura District on Monday [20 March].

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